

London Borough of Barnet

Enhanced Biodiversity Duty  
Report 2022 – 2025

# Executive Summary

The London Borough of Barnet's Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report (2022–2025) outlines the significant progress the Council has made in integrating biodiversity considerations across its operations. This first reporting period reflects a major step-change in Barnet's approach to ecological management, driven by the 2022 declaration of a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency and the hiring of in-house ecologists for both the Planning and Greenspaces departments.

Barnet has undertaken an extensive programme of baseline data collection, evidence led policy revision and habitat improvements across parks and open spaces. A borough-wide update of ecological dataset has substantially improved the Council's ability to manage sites and monitor biodiversity. This updated environmental evidence base has already informed policy revisions, detailed in the report below.

Across the reporting period, the Council has delivered a wide range of biodiversity enhancements. These include woodland planting, grassland enhancement, wetland creation, and river restoration, and are complemented by the implementation of improved, environmentally sustainable management practices. The creation of SuDS wetlands and the planting of thousands of new street and park trees demonstrate Barnet's commitment to nature recovery and climate resilience. In addition, LBB has committed to becoming a net zero council by 2030 and a net zero borough by 2042.

Implementation of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) has been a core area of work for the Planning Authority. LBB has assessed 479 applications for BNG relevance between 2024–2025. The data demonstrates both the challenges and opportunities presented by BNG in an urban borough. At the same time, planning conditions have delivered substantial ecological enhancements including bird, bat boxes, hedgehog highways, and improved habitat management plans.

Community and partnership working are central pillars of Barnet's approach. The Council has collaborated with over 60 local community groups, volunteers, charities, and environmental organisations to deliver projects. The Barnet Green Spaces Network has been upskilled through an extensive programme of ecological and practical conservation training, and we appreciate their continued hard work across the borough's green spaces.

Looking ahead, Barnet will focus on publishing and delivering its Local Nature Recovery Plan, implementing the London LNRS, enhancing SINC management, and improving ecological connectivity.

Introduction .....	5
Purpose of the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report .....	5
Why is Nature Important .....	5
National and Regional Policy context .....	6
Barnet State of Nature .....	7
1. London Borough of Barnet Policy, Objectives and Actions .....	14
Objectives.....	14
Policies.....	14
Actions .....	16
2. Consideration of Other Strategies.....	19
Local Nature Recovery Strategy .....	19
3. London Borough of Barnet’s future actions.....	20
2026-2031 .....	20
4. Biodiversity Net Gain Information .....	21
A summary of the actions you’ve carried out to meet biodiversity net gain obligations.....	21
Technical Expertise .....	21
Technical Software .....	21
Baseline Data .....	22
Stakeholder Engagement.....	22
Details of biodiversity gains resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans you’ve approved.....	22
A summary of how you plan to meet biodiversity net gain obligations in the next reporting period .....	29
5. Information about the London Borough of Barnet. ....	33
Overview of the London Borough of Barnet .....	33
Management, Governance and Decision Making.....	33
Considering the Natural Environment.....	34
Planning .....	34
Other Departments .....	36
Partner Organisations.....	36

6.	Your top achievements .....	37
	Actions you've taken to conserve and enhance biodiversity.....	37
	Achievements as a result of your actions .....	38
	Actions you plan to take in the next reporting period .....	38
7.	How your policies and actions have helped.....	39
8.	How you've raised awareness and educated the community .....	47
	Raising awareness of biodiversity in the community .....	47
	Engaging Residents .....	47
	Training Community Groups.....	48
	Raising awareness of biodiversity at London Borough of Barnet .....	49
	Training and engaging colleagues .....	49
9.	Monitoring and Evaluating Your Actions .....	50
	Environmental Monitoring .....	50
10.	Biodiversity highlights and challenges .....	52
	Highlights .....	52
	Working in Partnership.....	52
	Challenges.....	53
11.	References.....	55
	Appendix A – Guidance on Content and Structure .....	57

Abbreviation	Definition
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CNCA	Corporate Natural Capital Account
EBD	Enhanced Biodiversity Duty
GiGL	Greenspaces Information for Greater London
GLA	Greater London Authority
HMMP	Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
LB	London Borough
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LBB	London Borough of Barnet
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MOL	Metropolitan Open Land
POS	Public Open Space
POSS	Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
S106	Section 106
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation

# Introduction

## Purpose of the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report

The Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report (hereafter referred to as EBD) serves as a detailed account of The London Borough of Barnet's efforts to conserve and enhance biodiversity within the borough, fulfilling our statutory obligations as a local planning authority (LPA).

Under Section 40A of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, as amended by Section 103 of the Environmental Act 2021, Local Authorities in England are legally required to publish enhanced biodiversity reports. These reports must be published within 12 weeks of the end of each reporting period and include summaries of actions taken and planned to comply with biodiversity duties, relevant data, and other appropriate information. LPAs must also report on their activities under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, including biodiversity gains from approved plans. The first report must cover a period of up to three years, with subsequent reports covering up to five years.

Its primary purpose is to document the actions we have considered, agreed upon, and implemented to integrate biodiversity considerations across our functions, from planning and development to estate management and community engagement. The EBD report outlines our policies, objectives, and measurable steps taken to date, while also setting out plans to ensure ongoing progress.

In publishing Barnet's EBD report, we aim to promote transparency, share best practices with stakeholders, and contribute to broader environmental improvements at Local, Metropolitan and National levels, ultimately supporting the recovery of nature in Barnet in line with the soon to be published London Nature Recovery Strategy. LBB has followed the guidance published on the government website, set out in Appendix A of this report.

## Why is Nature Important

Nature is fundamental to human well-being, economic stability, and the resilience of our ecosystems.

Biodiversity (the variety and abundance of living species) underpins essential services such as clean air and water, pollination of crops, flood regulation, and carbon sequestration, which collectively support food security, health, and livelihoods.

In the UK, and England specifically, where biodiversity has declined significantly over recent decades due to habitat loss, pollution, and climate change (as per Burns et al.

2023 State of Nature Report (2023)), protecting and enhancing nature is critical to mitigating these threats and fostering sustainable communities.

For the London Borough of Barnet, a diverse urban borough blending green spaces with residential and commercial areas, investing in biodiversity not only preserves local wildlife, including protected species (e.g. bats, badgers, great crested newts) and priority habitats (e.g. lowland meadow, deciduous woodland, reed beds), but also enhances residents' quality of life, promotes mental and physical health through access to nature, and builds resilience against environmental challenges like extreme weather events.

## National and Regional Policy context

The need for biodiversity duty reporting arises from a robust legal and national policy framework aimed at halting and reversing biodiversity loss across the UK.

Legally, the Environment Act 2021 strengthens the biodiversity duty originally established under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, requiring public authorities in England, including local councils, to actively consider, agree, and deliver actions that conserve and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions.

This enhanced duty covers the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025, and mandates that authorities integrate biodiversity into decision-making processes and report on their progress, with the first reporting period concluding no later than 1 January 2026. There is a grace period of three months from this date to permit local authorities sufficient time to submit their first EBD report.

Nationally, this aligns with the UK Government's *25 Year Environment Plan* (2018), which commits to leaving the environment in a better state for future generations, and the *Environmental Improvement Plan* (2023), which sets ambitious targets for nature recovery, including halting species decline by 2030 and achieving a 10% biodiversity net gain for developments. These policies are further supported by initiatives such as Local Nature Recovery Strategies, which map priority areas for habitat enhancement, and the UK's commitments under international agreements like the Convention on Biological Diversity. For Barnet Council, this report represents our commitment to these imperatives, ensuring that biodiversity is embedded in our local strategies and contributes to national goals for a thriving natural environment.

In terms of Greater London, The *London Environment Strategy* (2018) provides the overarching regional policy framework for biodiversity, aiming to halt biodiversity loss in London and deliver a net gain in biodiversity by 2050, alongside enabling all Londoners to be within walking distance of quality green space. The strategy identifies priority habitats and species, promotes ecological connectivity across borough boundaries, and requires boroughs to embed biodiversity enhancement within land use -planning, green infrastructure, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), and estate management. Under section 105 of the Environment Act 2021 the Mayor of London is

named as the responsible authority who will issue the Local Nature Recovery Plan for Greater London.

## Barnet State of Nature

Barnet is an outer London borough, bordering LB Camden to the south, LB Haringey and LB Enfield to the East, Hertsmere to the north, and LB Harrow and LB Brent to the west. It is the second largest London borough by population (c.400,000 residents) and the fourth largest in size (87km<sup>2</sup>). More information about LBB is provided in Section 5.

Barnet is a relatively green borough, with just under 40% of the total area being defined as 'natural habitat' or undeveloped land. Within the borough boundary, there is one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), seven Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), and 66 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). Barnet contains a greater proportion of 'natural habitats' or developed land than neighbouring boroughs such as Harrow (22.3%), and Brent (32.3%) but less than Enfield (49.2%) and Hertsmere (80%), the latter consisting of extensive coverage of greenbelt.

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
  - The Welsh Harp (Brent Reservoir)

*NB. Hampstead Wood SSSI immediately adjacent to Barnet. Technically 174.61 sqm of the SSSI is located within LB Barnet however the location of the SSSI and its responsibility for its management is that of LB Camden.*

- Local Nature Reserves
  - Rowley Green Common LNR
  - Oak Hill Woods LNR
  - Scratchwood and Moat Mount LNR
  - Coppetts Wood and Glebelands LNR
  - Totteridge Fields LNR
  - Big Wood and Little Wood LNR
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
  - Arkley Lane and Pastures
  - Arkley South Field
  - Arrandene Open Space and Featherstone Hill
  - Ashley Lane
  - Avenue House Grounds
  - Barfield Allotments Nature Park
  - Barnet Environment Centre
  - Bell's Hill Burial Ground

- Belmont Open Space, Cockfosters
- Big Wood and Little Wood
- Brent Reservoir (Welsh Harp)
- Bruno's Field
- Burtonhole Lane and Pasture
- Cherry Tree Wood
- Clay Lane
- Clitterhouse Playing Fields
- College Farm
- Coppett's Wood and Scrublands Local Nature Reserve
- Copthall South Fields
- Deans Brook and Stoneyfields Park
- Drivers Hill
- Edgware Way Rough
- Edgwarebury Brook
- Edgwarebury Park
- Finchley Cemetery
- Folly Brook and Darland's Lake Nature Reserve
- Friary Park
- Glebe Lane Pastures
- Glebelands Local Nature Reserve
- Grahame Park Open Space
- Greenhill Gardens
- Hadley Green
- Hampstead Heath
- Hendon Park and Northern Line Railway Cutting
- King George's Fields
- Lakeside Nature Reserve
- Lower Dollis Brook
- Mill Hill Golf Course
- Mill Hill Old Railway Nature Reserve
- Mill Hill Substation Pastures
- Moat Mount Open Space and Mote End Farm
- Monken Hadley Common
- Mutton Brook
- New Southgate Cemetery
- North Middlesex Golf Course Ponds
- Northern line Embankment, High Barnet
- Oak Hill Wood Local Nature Reserve
- Oakleigh Park Rail Cutting
- Prince's Park

- Pymmes Brook
- Rowley Green Common Local Nature Reserve
- Rowley Lodge field
- Scratchwood
- Silk Stream and Burnt Oak Brook
- St Pancras and Islington Cemeteries
- Sulloniacis Pastures
- Sunny Hill Park
- The Mill Field
- Totteridge Common
- Totteridge Croft Field (or Dell's Down Acre)
- Totteridge Fields and Highwood Hill
- Totteridge Green
- Turner's Wood
- Upper Dollis Brook
- Woodridge School Nature Reserve

Nine of Barnet's SINC's are classified as being of Metropolitan Importance, ten are classified as being of Borough Importance Grade 1. Twenty-six are classified as being of Borough Importance Grade 2 and twenty-two are classified as being of Local Importance. Together, these cover 13.4% of the borough. 31 SINC's are owned by Barnet Council with a further eight in shared ownership.

Designation	Number of sites	Coverage within Barnet (%)
Site of Special Scientific Interest	1	0.38
Local Nature Reserve	7	1.76
SINC	66	13.41
Metropolitan	9	3.58
Local	22	1.9
Borough (Grade 2)	25	5.16
Borough (Grade 1)	10	2.77

*Table 1 Designated sites within LBB*

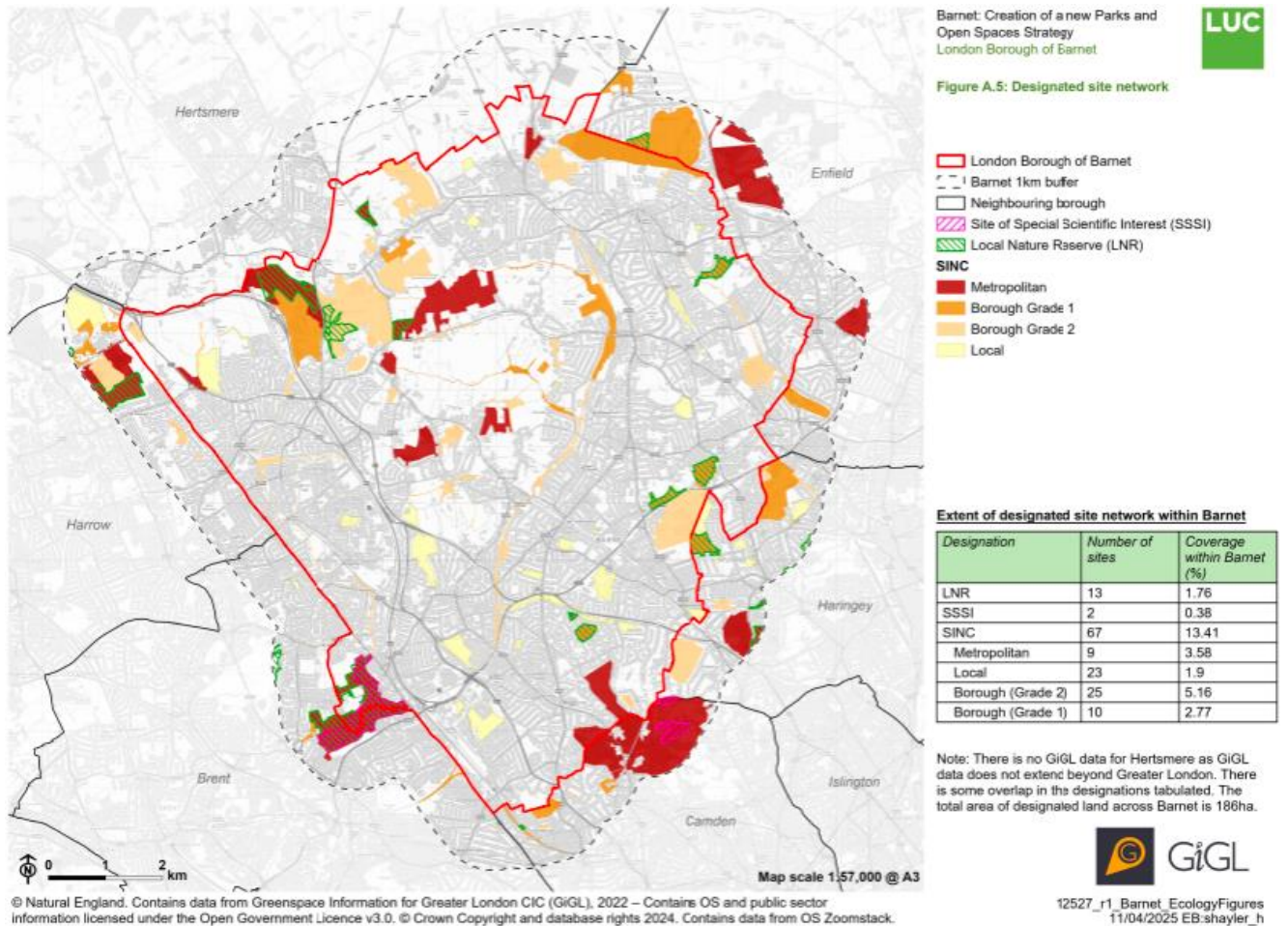


Figure 1 Designated sites within LBB, published in the recent SINC review. Nb the figure states 2 SSSIs, as Hampstead Heath SSSI is on the borough boundary between LB Barnet and LB Camden.

In addition, to the network of designated sites, the borough also contains priority and notable habitats including:

Priority habitat type	Area within Barnet (ha)	Coverage within Barnet (%)
Ancient woodland	71.5	0.8
Deciduous woodland	611.8	7.1
Good quality semi-improved grassland	34.6	0.4
Lowland heathland	31.2	0.4
Lowland meadows	58.8	0.7
Reedbeds	4.4	0.1
Surface water	46.5	0.5
Traditional orchard	6.1	0.1

Table 2 Priority habitats present within LBB

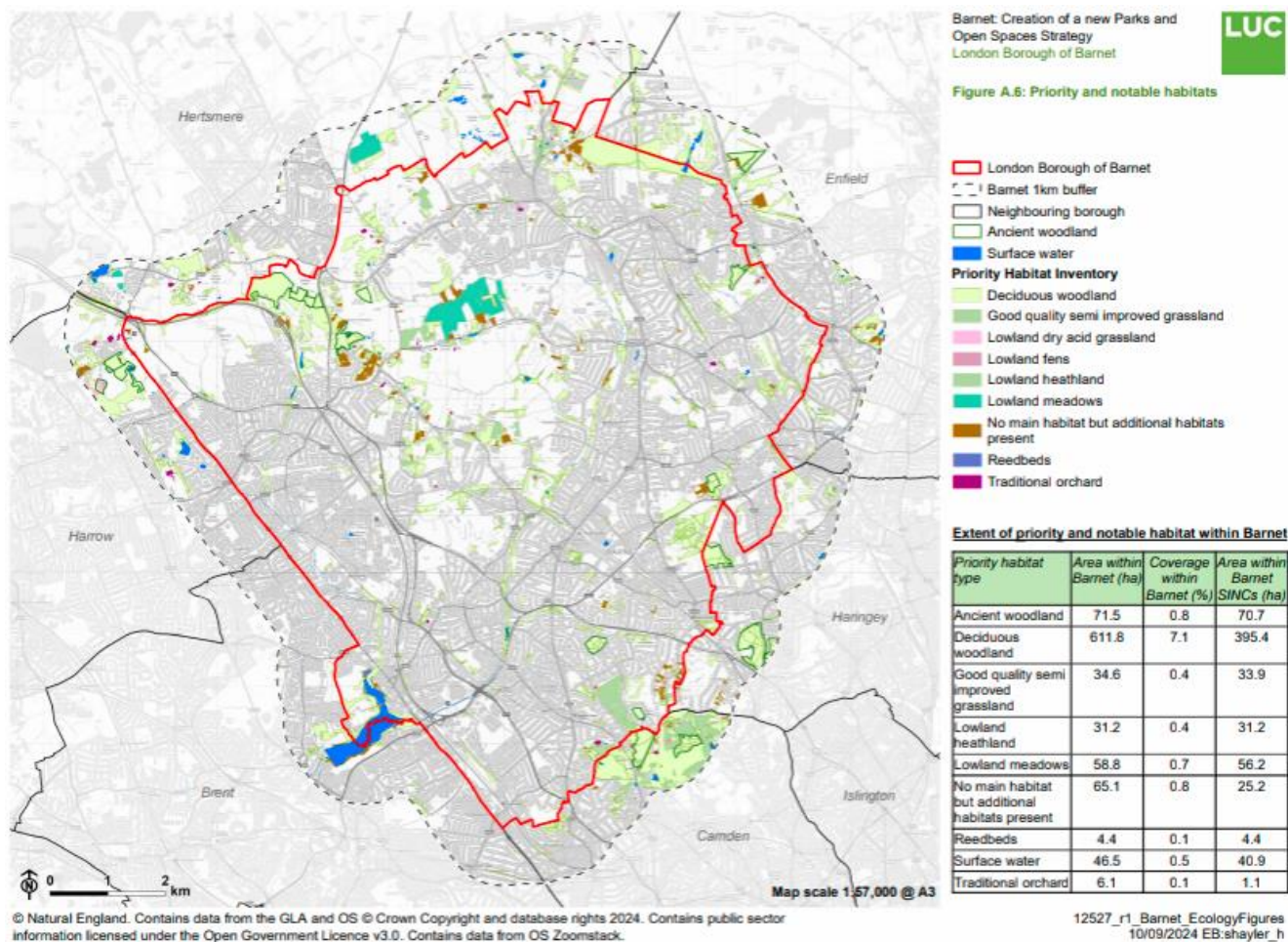


Figure 2 Priority and notable habitats within LBB, published in the recent SINC review

## Habitats

Barnet supports 71.5ha of ancient woodland, all of which is protected within the SINC network. A large cluster of woodland can be found in the north of the borough, within the Metropolitan SINC and LNR of Scratchwood, and the Borough Grade 2 SINC and LNR of Moat Mount Open Space and Mote End Farm. Deciduous woodland is the most extensive priority habitat, covering 611.8 ha, followed by priority grassland habitats present in much smaller quantities, including lowland meadow (58.8 ha), good quality semi-improved grassland (34.6 ha), lowland heathland (31.2 ha) and lowland acid grassland (31.2 ha), most of which are protected within SINCs despite their limited extent. In contrast, non-priority habitats, including amenity grassland, secondary woodland, scrub, and other urban green spaces, account for the majority of LB Barnet's undeveloped land cover and play a crucial supporting role in buffering designated sites, improving habitat connectivity, and delivering biodiversity enhancement opportunities across the wider borough.

Wetland habitats, including reedbeds, and strategic habitat corridors lie within the River Brent catchment, emerging from springs in Totteridge and Stanmore. This catchment includes tributary streams in Barnet including the Silk Stream and the Dollis Brook. All of watercourses within the Brent Catchment in Barnet converge in the Welsh Harp SSSI reservoir, on the boundary with the London Borough of Brent. The River Lea catchment covers the north-east of the borough and includes the Pymmes Brook and its tributaries. These watercourses act as green and blue corridors running through the borough and are valuable ecological assets.

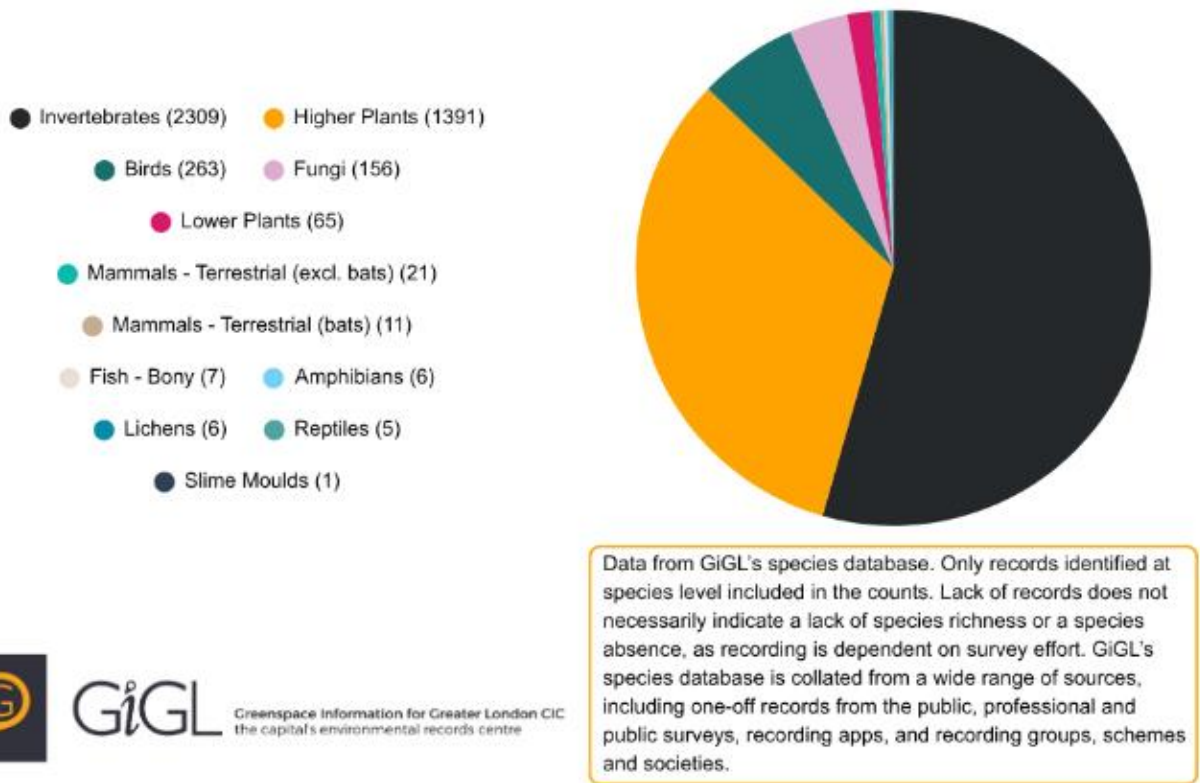
### Species

London Borough of Barnet possesses a rich level of biodiversity, with 4414 species recorded and reported with Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL). As reflected in Nature, invertebrate records are the most common (2,309 species), followed by higher plants (1,391 species) and birds (263 species). Other notable taxon groups include fungi (156 species), lower plants (mosses and liverworts) (65 species), and mammals (32 species, including 11 bat species). Protected and priority species are well represented, with 115 London Priority Species and 178 species on the London Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) longlist. Invasive non-native species represent a concern for Barnet, with 62 species recorded and nearly 4,000 associated records, highlighting management challenges for ecological integrity, especially along riparian corridors in the borough.

These species occur within a complex network of designated sites, priority habitats, and greenspaces. Barnet's accessible Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) hold over 111,000 records (33.56%), which highlight their role as biodiversity hotspots. The spatial distribution of the records indicates recording concentrated in central and northern areas, likely reflecting both habitat richness and survey effort. Priority habitats such as ancient woodland, grassland (lowland meadow, acid, and good-quality semi-improved grassland), and river corridors support many of these species, while the borough's extensive greenspace network provides connectivity crucial for species movement and resilience. This interaction between species diversity, protected sites, and habitat networks affirms Barnet's ecological value and informs conservation priorities.

# Number of species per taxon group, LB Barnet, all dates

Produced by Greenspace for Greater London CIC, November 2025



**GiGL** Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC  
the capital's environmental records centre

Figure 3 Breakdown of species per taxon group across all LBB species records.

# 1. London Borough of Barnet Policy, Objectives and Actions

## Objectives

Our priority during the first reporting period has been to systematically update baseline information to use as evidence to inform policy, strategy, and site management. Before the LNRS, Barnet had no Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and biodiversity was not a priority in local strategy. As a result, the environmental data held by the council needed updating to accurately reflect the current baseline. In doing this, LBB have identified key projects and areas to focus biodiversity improvements in the years to come. Biodiversity and the natural environment have become a higher priority for LBB following the formal declaration of the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency in May 2022 (see below), and this is reflected in the updated local policy, in line with national legislation.

*“We have declared a climate emergency because we recognise that urgent action is needed to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. We want to work faster and harder than ever before to make Barnet a more social, economic and environmentally sustainable borough.”* – Barnet Council, May 2022.

## Policies

The tables below summarise local, regional and national policy, updated since 2021 and how they consider biodiversity.

Local Policy Document	Reference to Biodiversity	Available
Barnet Food Plan 2022 – 2027	Three Pillars of our Approach and Action Plan – Healthy Planet. Pages 10, and 17.	<a href="#">Barnet Food Plan 2022-2027</a>
Barnet in Better Health Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025 – 2035	Page 4.	<a href="#">Barnet Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025 - 2035</a>
Barnet Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2023 - 2029	Section 5.2 and referenced throughout.	<a href="#">Barnet Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2023 - 2029</a>
Barnet Local Plan 2021 - 2036	Policies CDH07: Amenity Space and Landscaping, ECC01: Mitigating Climate Change, ECC03: Water Management, ECC05: Barnet’s Parks and Open Spaces, ECC06: Green Belt and	<a href="#">Barnet Local Plan 2021 - 2036</a>  <a href="#">Local Plan Map</a>  <a href="#">Biodiversity Technical Paper.pdf</a>

<b>Local Policy Document</b>	<b>Reference to Biodiversity</b>	<b>Available</b>
	Metropolitan Open Land and ECC07: Biodiversity.	
Barnet Sustainable Drainage Strategy 2023	Section 13 - Biodiversity and SUDS - Page 35.	<a href="#">Sustainable Drainage Strategy</a>
Barnet Tree Policy 2023 - 2028	Page 13.	<a href="#">Barnet Tree Policy 2023 - 2028</a>
Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan September 2022	Recommendation 35. Environmental Impact, Nature Conservation and Biodiversity.	<a href="#">Highways Asset Management Plan</a>
Our Plan for Barnet 2023 - 2026	Caring for Our Planet page 33 – 37.	<a href="#">Our Plan for Barnet 2023 - 2026</a>
Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2025 - 2035	Aim 3. SINC Network and Nature Recovery Review Report.	<a href="#">Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2025 - 2035</a>  <a href="#">SINC Network and Nature Recovery Review 2025</a>  <a href="#">London Borough of Barnet Corporate Natural Capital Review</a>
Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) March 2025	Section 7.	<a href="#">Planning Obligations Supplementary</a>
Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Section 5.2 A) Natural Environment, Nature Conservation and Biodiversity	<a href="#">Appendix B - Green Infrastructure SPD.pdf</a>

LBB also considers the following regional and national policy relevant to biodiversity.

<b>Regional / National Policy Document</b>	<b>Reference to Biodiversity</b>	<b>Available</b>
London Plan 2021	Policy G6 & G7	<a href="#">The London Plan 2021</a>
National Planning Policy Framework 2024	Section 2, 11, 13 -25	<a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework December 2024</a>

#### Other Considerations

In addition to the relevant national, regional and local policy, LBB also considers biodiversity in several other ways, including:

- The annual submission to the Climate Action Scorecard. Climate Emergency UK assessed all UK councils on the actions they've taken towards net zero. The 2025

Action Scorecard assessment consists of 93 questions or less, depending on council type, across 7 different sections, created in consultation with over 90 different organisations and individuals. Each council was marked against these criteria and given a right to reply before the scores underwent a final audit. The most current score considers work completed between July 2024 and March 2025, and there are 10 criteria relevant to biodiversity. This year, we ranked joint 17th of all UK local authorities in the latest round of the Council Climate Action Scorecards managed by Climate Emergency UK. The breakdown of results for LBB can be found here: [London Borough of Barnet Climate Action Scorecard | Council Climate Scorecards](#).

- LBB considers biodiversity throughout its [social value](#) and procurement process, summarised in the [Social Investment Impact Report 24/25](#). For example, there are suggested commitments in the social value [Themes, Outcomes and Measurements](#) such as tree planting and donating to environmental projects in the borough.
- Although written in 2017, the London Borough of Barnet Corporate Natural Capital Account (CNCA) (available: [London Borough of Barnet Corporate Natural Capital Review](#)) has been considered in decision making to date. This report outlines the huge contribution made by green infrastructure to the wellbeing of its residents and the success of our economy and acknowledges that Barnet's population is set to increase significantly over the next twenty years, putting pressure on the borough's green infrastructure assets. At the same time, the council is facing significant budgetary pressures. The London Borough of Barnet was the first London Borough to produce a borough-wide CNCA for 200 of its parks and open spaces.
- Also published in 2017, the [Green Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document 2017](#) outlines the capacity of Green Infrastructure to deliver a wide range of benefits (including biodiversity), and how these might be promoted and delivered through existing policies and processes.
- Site management plans, such as the [Welsh Harp Vision](#), consider biodiversity in the context of the individual site, location, designation and the habitats and species present.

## Actions

During the duration of this reporting period, the following actions have been completed by LBB, often in partnership with others, that benefit biodiversity. More information about these projects is provided in Section 6 and Section 7.

- Declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency.
- Reviewed, improved, and published our LBB owned SINC data on Open Digital Barnet.

- Identified, funded, and managed habitat creation projects e.g. woodland and tree planting.
- Identified, funded, and managed habitat enhancement works e.g. grasslands and addition of food growing into parks.
- Identified, funded, and managed habitat restoration projects e.g. North Marsh of the Welsh Harp SSSI and Dollis Brook Restoration Project.
- Identified, funded, and managed habitat management works e.g. working to management plans on designated sites to maintain 'positive conservation management' status.
- Updates to environmental data and subsequently strategies and policy e.g. [SINC Network and Nature Recovery Review 2025](#) and LNRS.
- Community engagement e.g. Citizens Assembly on Climate Change and Biodiversity.
- Provide training to council staff on Biodiversity in Barnet and the requirements of the Environment Act 2021 e.g. preparation and implementation of mandatory BNG.
- Contribute to devising and adopting the Barnet Local development planning and SPDs e.g. Green infrastructure SPD (due to be issued 2025), and [Planning Obligations SPD](#) which strengthen the Borough commitment to safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity.
- Identified, funded, and managed the upskilling of Barnet Green Spaces Network and environmental volunteers e.g. running a series of free training sessions.
- Assessed planning application and conditions in line with local, regional, and national policy relevant to biodiversity and in compliance with wildlife protection legislation e.g. Habitats Directive.
- Enforced against unauthorised habitat removal, planning violations, and reporting of wildlife related crimes associated with development e.g. issuing temporary stop notices, and reporting of wildlife related crimes.
- Delivered several SuDS, flood alleviation and river restoration projects e.g. Action for the Silk Stream and Halliwick Recreation Ground FAS, in line with the updated SuDS Policy.
- Contributed annually to the Thames21 Catchment Coordinator Role for the Brent Catchment Partnership Host and the Lea Catchment Partnership Host.
- Started the 'Barnet Community Food Growing Network', recognising that food growing sites can be some of the most biodiverse habitats in urban areas.
- Working towards more sustainable management practices in parks and open spaces e.g. only using peat-free compost and reducing the use of chemical pest control and weed management.
- Commissioned a rewilding engagement and feasibility study at the Welsh Harp.

- Coordinated spend of annual DEFRA BNG grant, which contributed to work on SINCC review, desk based ecological baselining (including BNG Matrix of sites), condition assessments and funded LBBs Service Level Agreement with GiGL.

## 2. Consideration of Other Strategies

### Local Nature Recovery Strategy

As stated above, the LBB ecologists have worked closely with GiGL and the GLA to systematically update and improve the accuracy of the environmental data held for Barnet, ahead of the writing of the London-wide LNRS. This included:

- Providing updated, accurate SINC boundary data
- Submission of borough specific ecological information, including opportunities and constraints
- Submission of baseline species data to GiGL, and encouraging local groups to submit records directly to GiGL, or use platforms such as iRecord to submit data
- Worked directly with the GLA during the process of writing the LNRS, including attending working groups, submitting suggested revisions to information gathered during public consultation, and hosting a physical copy of the LNRS in a council building for consultation purposes.
- Responding to rounds of consultation.

In addition, the LBB ecologists are members of the following London-wide groups that inputted into the LNRS:

- London Boroughs Biodiversity Forum
- GLA Clean and Healthy Waterways – Biodiversity Working Group
- Thames Eel Action Plan - Biodiversity Working Group
- Thames 21 River catchment Partnerships (Brent and London Lea)
- Citizen Zoo water vole, white stork, and beaver working groups

As the London LNRS will be finalised in early 2026, our next EBD report (to be published 1 January 2031) will contain more information on how we use the strategy to influence and inform our policies, objectives and actions.

## 3. London Borough of Barnet's future actions

### 2026-2031

Between 2026 and 2031, LBB is committed to the following action to the benefit of biodiversity and nature conservation in the borough:

- Completing and publishing the Local Nature Recovery Plan for Barnet, in line with the LNRS, SINC review and POSS publication
- Delivering the aims of the POSS relevant to biodiversity
- Working towards the delivery of the aims of the SINC Network and Nature Recovery Review
- Continuing to contribute to the Thames21 Catchment Partnerships, delivering the aims of the Brent and London Lea action plans for healthy rivers
- Working towards the delivery of the high priority aims of the [Welsh Harp Vision](#), as agreed by key stakeholders and landowners.
- Producing a Biodiversity SPD in line with Local Nature Recovery Plan for Barnet and the Green Infrastructure SPD.
- Managing parks and open spaces in an environmentally sustainable way to maximise biodiversity and contribute to ecosystem services
- Developing and implementing a comprehensive Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) management plan across SINC's and along riparian corridors in collaboration with Thames21 across the catchment.
- Expanding citizen science initiatives by partnering with third party organisation (e.g. Thames 21, Citizen Zoo) to establish borough-wide surveys for priority species and environmental indicators.
- Commence LPA monitoring of major developments with significant Biodiversity Net Gain secured under planning obligations.
- Enhance cross-borough collaboration through forming a joint working group to monitor significant Net Gain and watercourse restoration works.
- Conduct a pilot study including feasibility study project to create a Biodiversity Gain Site within the borough.

## 4. Biodiversity Net Gain Information

A summary of the actions you've carried out to meet biodiversity net gain obligations

### Technical Expertise

- In 2022, LBB employed two full time ecologists, one reporting to the planning department and one reporting to green spaces. Previously, technical input, such as the review of planning applications, writing of planning conditions and monitoring, was provided by ecological consultants working for Capita/WSP and this was done on a case-by-case basis. Both LBB full time ecologists had prior experience in conducting Biodiversity Net Gain assessments including conducting condition assessment and using the Defra Biodiversity Metrics. Since starting with LBB have engaged monthly online training with the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) on the design and implementation of mandatory BNG for the local planning authority.
- LBB has a service level agreement (SLA) with GiGL, which allows access to reliable and up to date information about London's natural environment. LBB has a contract and data use licence with GiGL that guarantees access to [data](#) and related services. GiGL hold an ever-growing, centralised resource of environmental information and expertise, and are a key partner in the LNRS.

### Technical Software

- In December 2023, LBB procured the BNG Administrator module (Exacom) to streamline the administration and monitoring of our Biodiversity Net Gain obligations. These tools provide significant benefits, including improved accuracy in recording and tracking BNG commitments secured under planning obligation, automated integration between Uniform and Exacom, and enhanced transparency for developers and stakeholders. This investment enables Barnet Council to manage BNG effectively, maintain accountability, and demonstrate measurable biodiversity improvements across developments. Through centralising data and linking BNG delivery to S106 agreements, Exacom module ensures compliance with statutory requirements, reduces administrative burden, and supports robust reporting for audits and performance monitoring.
- In 2024, the greenspaces team procured EzyAsset, an additional module of EzyTreev system which hosts the [Barnet Community Tree Portal](#). The additional module has allowed for habitat mapping and condition assessments to be done on LBB owned and managed land.

## Baseline Data

A significant amount of baseline habitat and species data has been collected since 2022, used to inform updated policy and strategy. More information, including links to reports and data, is provided in Section 1 and 2 above.

## Stakeholder Engagement

LBB Ecologists have organised and delivered the following engagement sessions to support colleagues with the implementation of mandatory BNG.

- Since February 2023, internal training sessions have been delivered to Councillors, planning managers, and planning officers to build understanding of BNG requirements in line with emerging government guidance and legislation. The sessions have explained the principles of BNG, statutory obligations under the Environment Act 2021 and subsequent amendments under Schedule 7a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and practical steps for integrating BNG into planning decisions, including use of the biodiversity metric and compliance processes.
- A further follow up session in June 2023 also covered the lawful exemptions, transitional arrangements, and timelines for mandatory implementation e.g. the Biodiversity Gains Requirements (Exemptions) Regulation 2024, and The Biodiversity Gain (Town and Country Planning) (Modifications and Amendments) (England) Regulation 2024. This was supported by case studies of two pre-mandatory BNG project in Barnet, and an overview of the Biodiversity Gain Plan, and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan process, monitoring and enforcement.
- An internal 'Biodiversity Net Gain working group' was formed in early 2023, pulling in colleagues from different departments including estates, trees and sustainability. This internal Biodiversity Net Gain working group allows for the effective sharing of updated information relating to BNG legislation and guidance, the progression of the London-wide LNRS, significant proposed developments an enforcement cases impact biodiversity, and the planning, funding, and progress conservation efforts in Barnet's Parks and Greenspaces.

Details of biodiversity gains resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans you've approved

*Below is a summary of the number of planning permission that have been granted, the number of Biodiversity Units secured by planning condition/obligation, and number of exempt applications.*

Since the enactment Schedule 7a of Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as enshrined under Section 90 of the Environment Act 2021 came into effect a total of 137 BNG applicable applications made to the London Borough of Barnet.

Caveat: It is important to note that planning applications are subject to consideration and decision, and as a result have the potential to be subject to planning refusal, just as they are to being approved. The final biodiversity units secured within the borough will only come with the delivery of habitat creation and enhancement as stated within the statutory Biodiversity Gain Plan and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP)/ Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) approved by the LPA post-determination of the planning application.

### [Biodiversity Gain Plans and BNG monitoring](#)

#### **Approved Biodiversity Gain Plans: 4**

- Of the six Biodiversity Gain Plans (BGPs) (25/1940/BNG; 25/3527/BNG; 25/4159/BNG; 25/0509/CON) submitted to LBB, two (50%) have been discharged following confirmation of off-site Biodiversity Unit purchases from Natural England-registered Biodiversity Gain Sites (BGS-190325001 and BGS-091024001), both located outside the National Character Area covering Barnet (Northern Thames Basin). The approved BNG for these schemes is secured by planning condition, supported by HMMPs, and subject to ongoing monitoring reports to the LPA in accordance with the approved HMMPs. Two further Biodiversity Gain Plans have also been submitted and are currently pending consideration, with decision notices expected in January 2026.

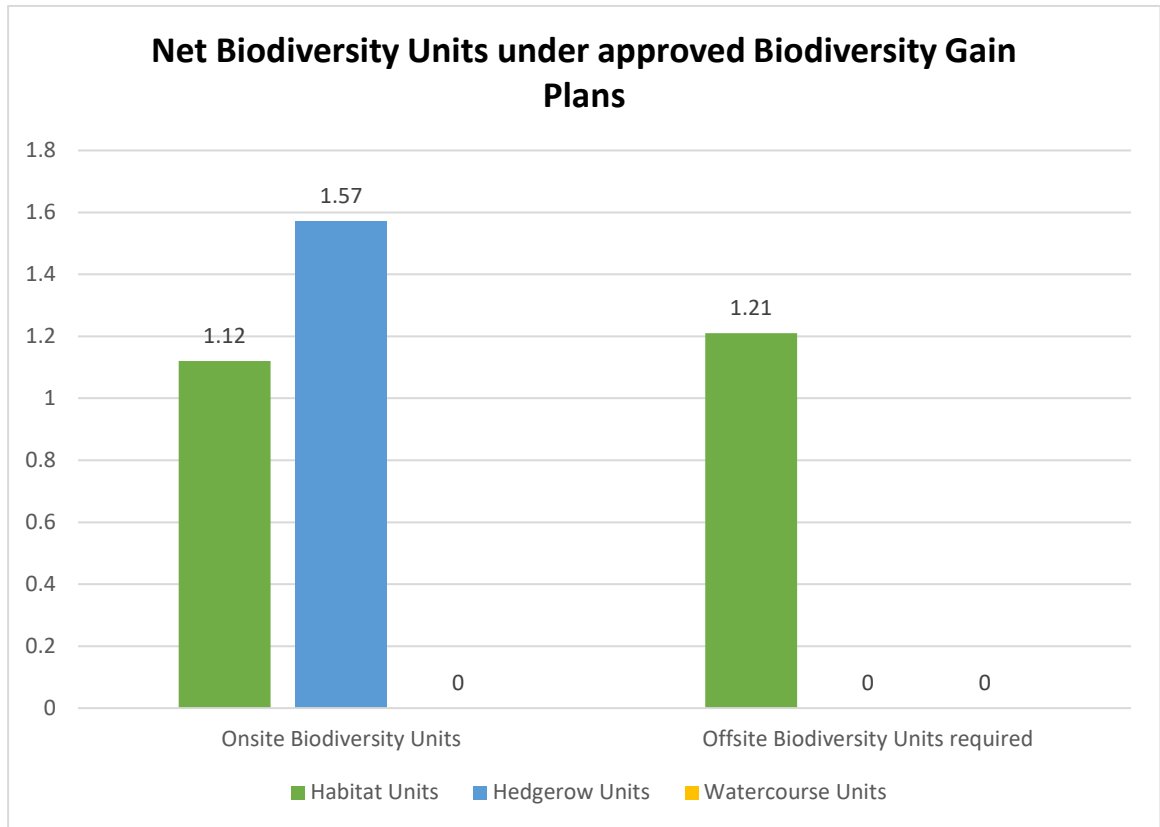


Figure 4 Bar chart of the of the Biodiversity Unit secured in Barnet under approved Biodiversity Gain Plan

- **Irreplaceable Habitats:** No irreplaceable habitats (veteran trees, ancient trees and woodland) will be impacted under the approved Biodiversity Gain Plans above.
- **Monitoring:** The first monitoring of sites of Biodiversity Gain Plan has not commenced as LB Barnet has not yet received written notification from developers as to when the approved habitat creation/enhancement works have been completed which would start the statutory 30-year monitoring period.
- **Biodiversity Gain Sites:** LB Barnet has not established a Biodiversity Gain Sites within the borough due to logistical difficulties and perceived risks for the Council. For further details refer to the discussion below.

The LPA has undertaken an annual audit relevant planning application to determine market for 'offsite units' within the borough/wider London, taking note of whether habitat units are used (where applicable). This baseline information will determine the need for, and feasibility of Barnet to become a Habitat Unit provider.

- **Statuary Credits:** No Statutory Credits were required under the approved Biodiversity Gian Plans nor for any of our approved, pending or refused BNG

applicable applications.

- Net Change Biodiversity Units by habitat type:** The Net Biodiversity units approved under application (all habitats created, enhanced, and retained, minus loss) by habitat type as opposed to simply Net Change in Biodiversity Units secured under the Biodiversity Gain Plans (refer to Figure 5 above). The most common habitat created and enhanced onsite were other neutral grassland (1.13 habitat units), followed by the creation of species rich hedgerow (1.89 hedgerow units), the most common habitat loss onsite was modified grassland (-0.43 units). Conversely the most common offsite habitats secured from offsite habitat banks was mixed scrub (0.96 habitat units), followed by traditional orchard (0.09 habitat units). The most common offsite habitat lost to create these habitats was cereal crop (-0.20 habitat units).

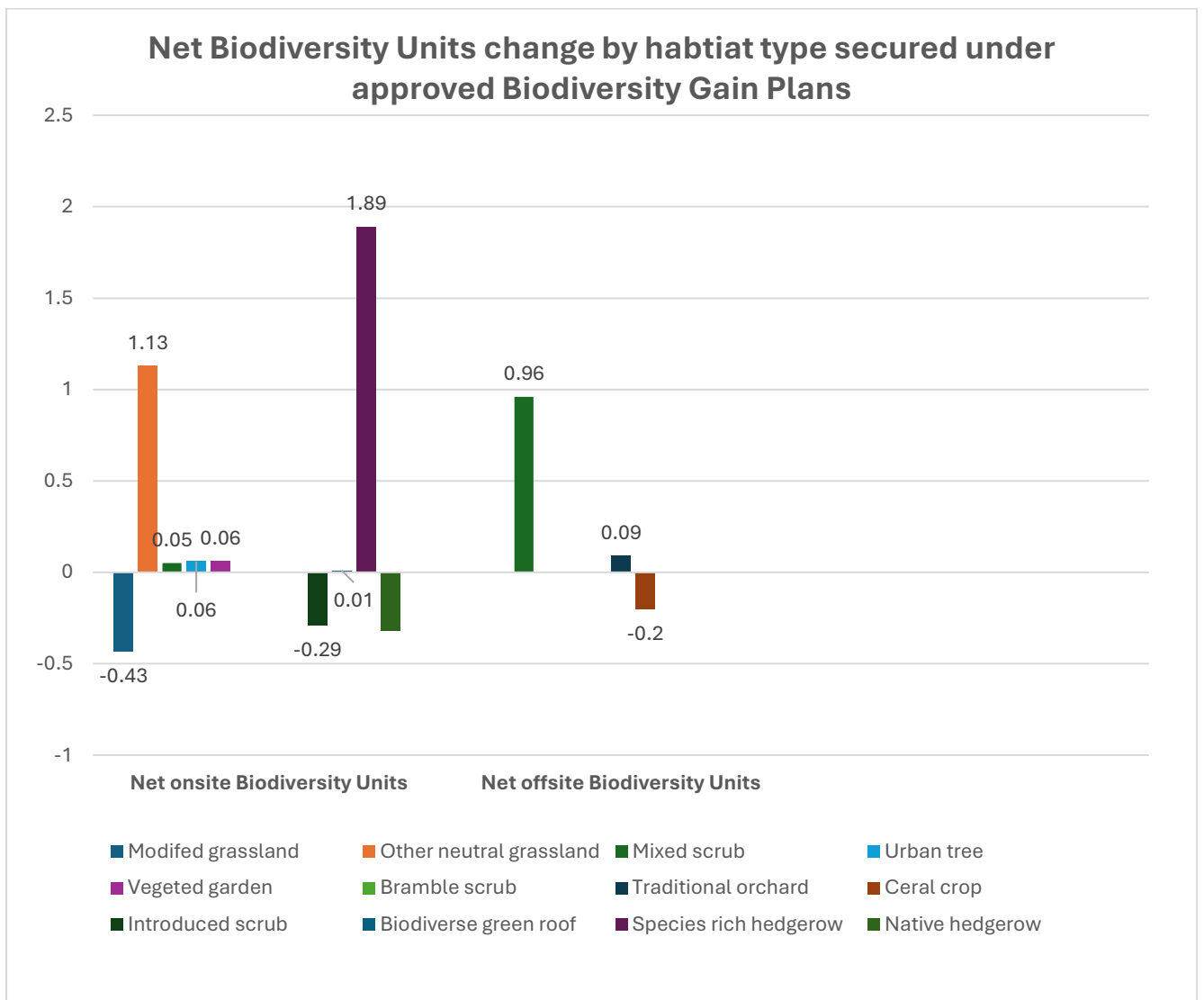


Figure 5 Net Biodiversity Units change by habitat units of secured in Barnet under approved Biodiversity Gain Plan.

## BNG applicable planning application

### Approved BNG applicable planning application: 43

- Of the 43 approved planning applications, 19 (44.18%) were unable to achieve 10% Biodiversity Net Gain within the red-line boundary and therefore were required to secure off-site Biodiversity Units, while two applications (4.87%) that had incorrectly claimed lawful exemption subsequently submitted Biodiversity Statements and Statutory Biodiversity Metrics for determination by the LPA. In addition, 22 approved and pending BNG-applicable applications (16.05% of 137 total applications) were classified as 'significant enhancement' under paragraph 9, Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and were therefore recommended to be secured via planning obligations requiring a financial contribution to the LPA to support the review of BNG monitoring reports.

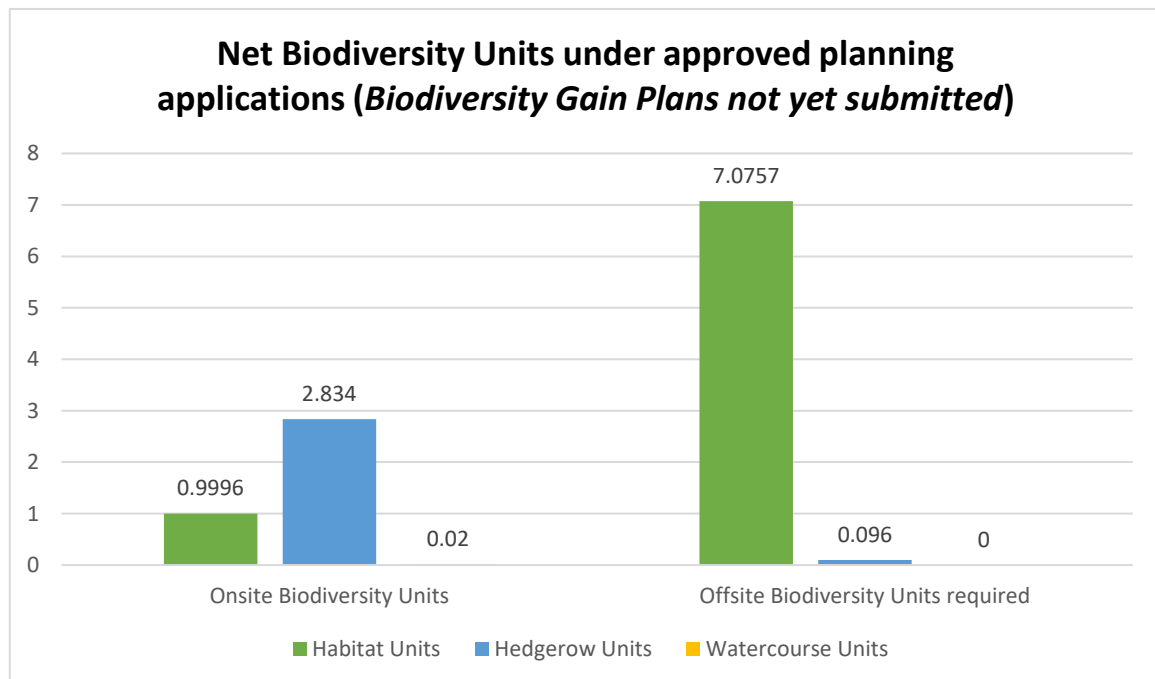


Figure 6 Bar chart of the of the onsite and offsite Biodiversity Units under approved planning application. Biodiversity Gain Plans have yet to be submitted to the LPA.

### BNG applicable planning applications pending consideration/Decision: 49

- Two applications (4.34%) provided insufficient information to determine the post-development BNG value, while of the 49 applications pending consideration, 15 (30.61%) were unable to achieve Net Gain within the red-line boundary due either to non-compliance with Statutory Metric trading rules; including failure to offset losses of medium- or high-distinctiveness habitats, or to site size constraints, and therefore required off-site Biodiversity Units. One further application (2.17%) stated it was BNG-applicable but submitted no evidence of the site's baseline BNG value.

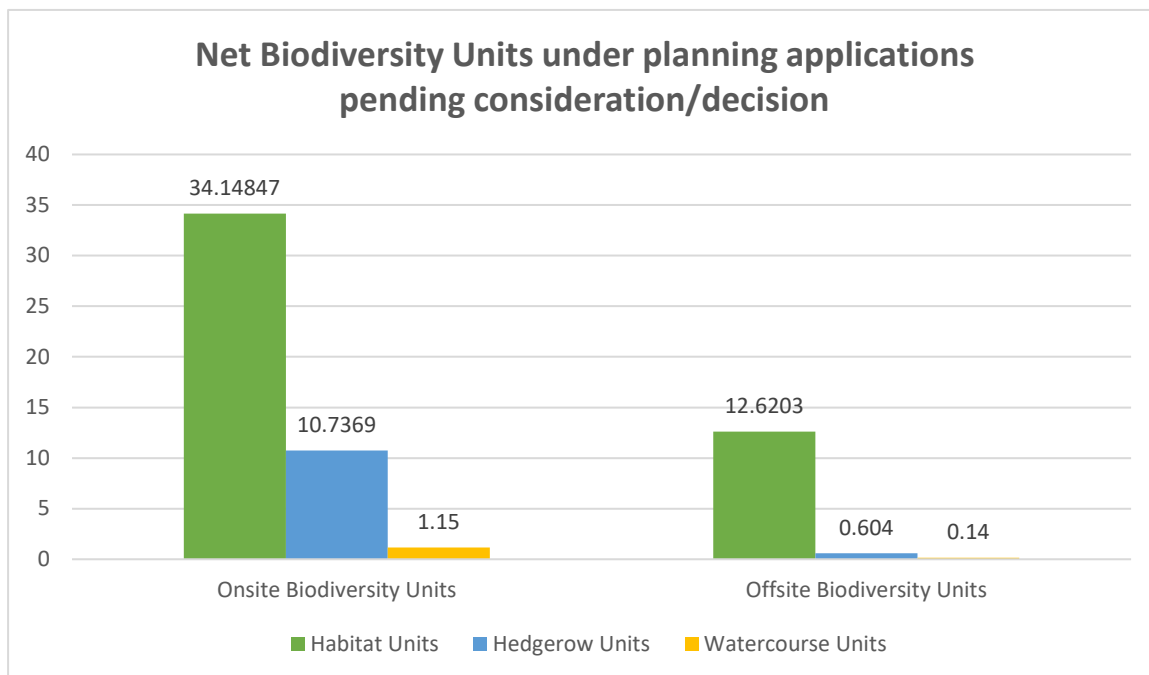


Figure 7 Bar chart of the of the expected onsite and offsite Biodiversity Units under planning applications pending consideration or decision. These applications may be either approved or refused/withdrawn in the planning balance.

### Refused application: 45

- Three applications (6.8%) incorrectly claimed lawful exemption but were found to require Biodiversity Net Gain information under Article 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. If the 45 applications had been approved, they would have delivered Net Gain of 4.417 habitat units, 1.8298 hedgerow units, and 0 watercourse units; however, 15 of these applications (33.33%) would have required off-site provision amounting to 1.033 habitat units, 0.09 hedgerow units, and 0.12 watercourse units.

---

### BNG exemptions

#### BNG exemptions: 344

- The most frequently cited exemption across planning applications was the de minimis exemption (36.54%), followed by section 73 applications relating to permissions predating mandatory BNG (30.99%), self- and custom-build exemptions (11.66%), the temporary minor-development exemption active until 2 April 2024 (10.23%), and householder applications (9.06%). Three applications (0.87%) that claimed the de minimis exemption were found to have intentionally degraded habitats prior to submission and were refused under Article 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management

Procedure) (England) Order 2015. A further nine applications (2.63%) incorrectly claimed de minimis status without evidence demonstrating that the proposal would avoid the loss of 25 m<sup>2</sup> or more of baseline habitat, or 5 m or more of linear habitat; these cases required additional evidence to establish compliance with regulation 4 of the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemption) Regulations 2024.

- Ten applications (2.92%) claimed the self and custom-build exemption but failed to demonstrate that the development met the requirements of section 1(A1) of the Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015. Three applications (0.58%) incorrectly claimed exemption as Biodiversity Gain Sites under regulation 8 of the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemption) Regulations 2024 and were returned, as they were not solely for the creation of BNG sites. Overall, seven applications (2.04%) that incorrectly claimed lawful exemption were determined to be subject to mandatory BNG and were refused, while one additional application (0.29%) was withdrawn due to insufficient BNG information. Figure 8 below shows the reason for exemption sought by applicants claimed since BNG became mandatory on the 12 February 2024.

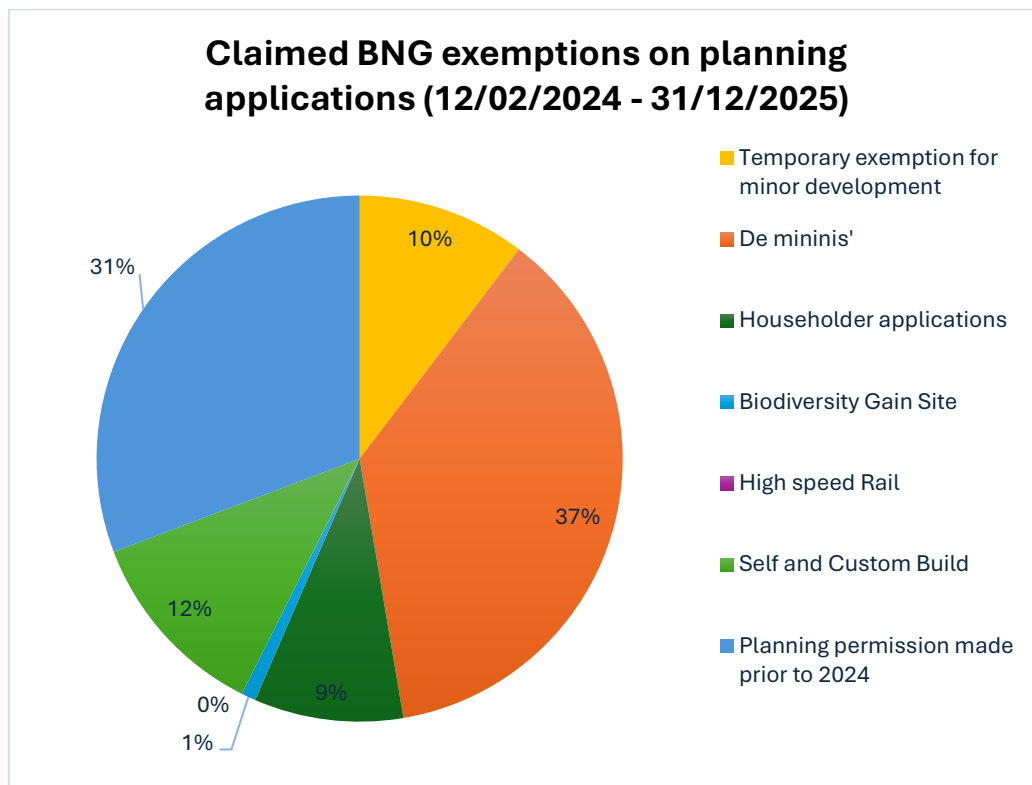


Figure 8 Pie chart showing the types of claimed lawful exemptions under the Biodiversity Gains Requirements Regulation 2024 between 12/02/2024 and 31/12/2025.

## Pre-mandatory BNG applications: 15

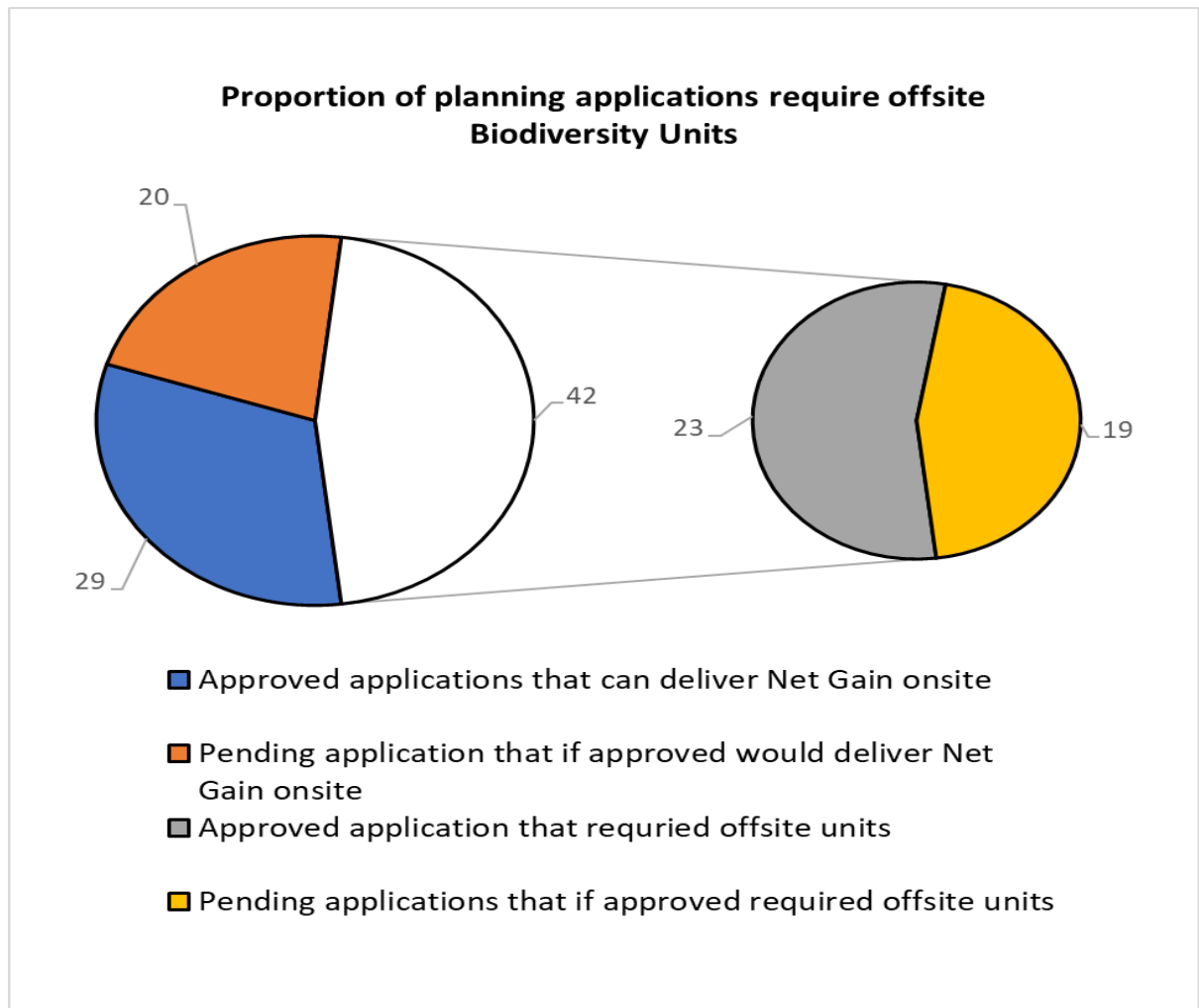
- Before mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain commenced on 12 February 2024, Barnet Council proactively secured BNG on a pre-mandatory basis for four developments using Biodiversity Metric 3.1 secured through planning obligations. For further details on those application refer to the FOI request [LB Barnet FOI request 19 June 2024](#).

## A summary of how you plan to meet biodiversity net gain obligations in the next reporting period

- Annual audit relevant planning application to determine market for ‘offsite units’ within the borough/wider London, taking note of whether habitat units are used (where applicable). This baseline information will determine the need for, and feasibility of Barnet to become a Habitat Unit provider.
- Signpost applicants to a centralised list of reputable habitat unit providers/habitat banks which can provide biodiversity unit information, quotation, and purchase to meet their Net Gain obligations.
- Collaborate with Thames21 Prioritise high potential sites identified in the Dollis Brook Watercourse Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Rapid Scoping Assessment (prepared by For the Love of Water (FLOW) CIC for Thames21). These potential sites include Whetstone Stray, Brook Farm Open Space, Brent Park, and Clitterhouse Brook, to secure watercourse BNG units, integrate these projects into habitat banking schemes, and align with the forthcoming London Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Conduct a feasibility study to create a Biodiversity Gain Site within the borough, in collaboration between LBB Greenspace, Estates and Planning.

## Tally of Biodiversity units required for offsetting – Market for habitat unit provider.

- **Total amount of Offsite Biodiversity Units required:** LB Barnet as assessed since the start of mandatory Net Gain that the total amount of offsite biodiversity units required for approved BNG applicable applications was **7.075 habitat units** and **0.096 hedgerow units**. Conversely for all currently pending applications the total offsite biodiversity unit demand is **12.6203 habitat units**, **0.604 hedgerow units**, and **0.14 watercourse units**. *Refer to approved and pending BNG applicable application section above.*



*Figure 9 Pie chart of the proportion of BNG applicable planning application (approved (49) and pending (42)) that could deliver their onsite and those that required some offsite provision of biodiversity units.*

The analysis above shows that of the 137 BNG-applicable applications (approved, pending, and refused), an estimated 57 proposals would require the purchase of off-site Biodiversity Units to secure approval of their Biodiversity Gain Plans (40.14%). For approved and currently pending applications alone, 42 schemes (46.15%) are expected to rely on off-site units to meet their Net Gain obligations, as illustrated in Figure 9 above. This high demand primarily reflects two key factors:

- 1) Most full planning applications in Barnet constitute minor development typically on sites less than 0.5 ha which limits the land available for delivering on-site Net Gain;  
and
- 2) There is a current lack of accessible habitat banks within or adjacent to the LPA boundary, driven by land costs, habitat creation and maintenance expenses, and the administrative complexity of establishing off-site Biodiversity Gain Sites.

- LBB will continue developing relationships with other London boroughs to support joint monitoring and enforcement of BNG and to identify potential cross-borough habitat bank locations, including sharing best practice and coordinating solutions to meet the rising demand for off-site biodiversity units. Collaborative work will also be essential for assessing feasible habitat bank sites, taking into account land availability, cost, long-term habitat creation and maintenance needs, and appropriate governance arrangements. Such cooperation will help address the current shortage of habitat banks within or near LPAs, improve market accessibility for developers, and support more efficient delivery of biodiversity obligations across London.
- The following section summarises the key issues LB Barnet has encountered since the introduction of mandatory BNG on 12 February 2024, many of which reflect shared challenges across Greater London.

### **Reasons for exemption**

- The Local Planning Authority has noted out of the 479 applications submitted between 12 February 2024 and 31 December 2025 that required assessment from the LPA's ecology officer **71.39%** of all applications claimed a lawful exemption. The data indicates that a growing challenge in managing Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) compliance, with exemptions frequently claimed most notably under the 'de minimis' and pre-mandatory exemptions. However, a notable share of these claims lacked sufficient evidence, leading to refusals and challenge at the application stage. The prevalence of incorrectly claimed exemption and deliberate site degradation highlights enforcement and verification is an issue for LBB (as with other boroughs). The LPA requires that in the case of claimed 'de minimus' exemption the applicant must submit clear evidence of the fact that the development will not result in a Net Loss of 25 sqm or greater of habitat on the site

### **Requirement for Offsite Biodiversity Units**

- Thirty-eight percent of all submitted applications (52 in total) were unable to achieve the required Net Gain onsite, largely because many proposals involved new residential development on highly constrained plots where post-development habitats could not be delivered within private gardens or curtilage. In other cases, proposed habitats failed to comply with the Statutory Metric's trading rules, such as when losses of medium-distinctiveness habitats were not replaced with habitats of the same type or of higher distinctiveness, resulting in fractal biodiversity unit requirements that could not be met onsite.

- LBB Planning considered a feasibility study to assess whether Barnet Council could use its Estate landholdings to create a borough-wide habitat bank and act as a Responsible Body supplying biodiversity units. Ecology officers from other London boroughs have expressed similar concerns, noting that high land and habitat-management costs, along with the legal complexities of securing biodiversity units, limit the practicality of individual boroughs establishing off-site habitat banks within London.

**Insufficient mechanism for local authorities to generate large scale BNG projects**

- Although the statutory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) process ensures compliance under the Environment Act 2021, it does not guarantee to deliver local ecological enhancement. Residents and ecosystems may not directly benefit from the biodiversity improvements funded by development within the borough because the current offsite Biodiversity Unit Market is remote.

## 5. Information about the London Borough of Barnet.

### Overview of the London Borough of Barnet

As outlined in the Introduction, Barnet is an outer London borough, bordering LB Camden to the south, LB Haringey and LB Enfield to the East, Hertsmere to the north and LB Harrow and LB Brent to the west. It is the second largest London borough by population (c.400,000 residents), and the fourth largest in size (87km<sup>2</sup>). The London Borough of Barnet has responsibilities encompassing a wide range of public services including, but not limited to:

- Education (as the Local Education Authority)
- Planning (as the Local Planning Authority)
- Flood risk and mitigation (as Lead Local Flood Authority)
- Social Care
- Children's Services
- Community Safety
- Public Health
- Highways
- Estates and building services
- Green spaces, trees, leisure and libraries
- Street cleansing and grounds maintenance
- Waste and recycling
- Sustainability
- Arts and Culture

### Management, Governance and Decision Making

High-level [decision-making](#) is split between Full Council (all 63 councillors) and the Leader & Cabinet, for policy, strategy and budget setting. The Cabinet comprises the Leader and nine Portfolio Holders responsible for service areas such as housing, education, and environment. Overview & Scrutiny Committees hold the Cabinet accountable and review policies prior to implementation. Other committees include Planning, Licensing, Audit & Pensions, and partnership boards like the Health & Wellbeing Board.

LBB has a Chief Executive, Cath Shaw, supported by seven Executive Directors overseeing areas such as Strategy, Environment and Communities, Adults and Health.

The Council follows structured governance principles, supported by a Governance, Audit, Risk Management & Standards Committee, delivering annual governance statements. The organisational senior management structure is shown below.

## Senior Management Structure Chart

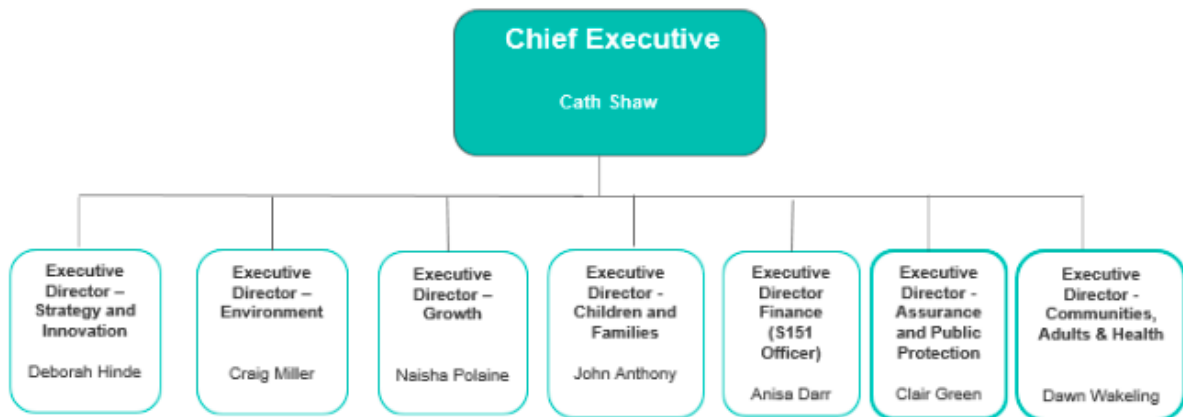


Figure 10 The senior management structure of LBB

## Considering the Natural Environment

Since 2022, Barnet Council has made environmental sustainability a key priority, with several initiatives underway. These include declaring a Climate & Biodiversity Emergency and commit the council to having a **net-zero corporate estate by 2030**, and being a **net-zero borough** as soon as possible thereafter, supported by a [Sustainability Programme and Action Plan](#).

The actions relating to sustainability and biodiversity are overseen by the cabinet member for Environment & Climate Change, and encompass a wide range of responsibilities, including air quality, biodiversity, waste and recycling, highways, environmental crime, parks, and fleet management, and monitors progress on climate emergency actions.

There are several departments that give regard to biodiversity within their roles, including greenspaces, planning, sustainability, estates, grounds maintenance, trees and highways. LBB have an in-house grounds maintenance and street scene team, that are responsible for the day-to-day management of public sites.

## Planning

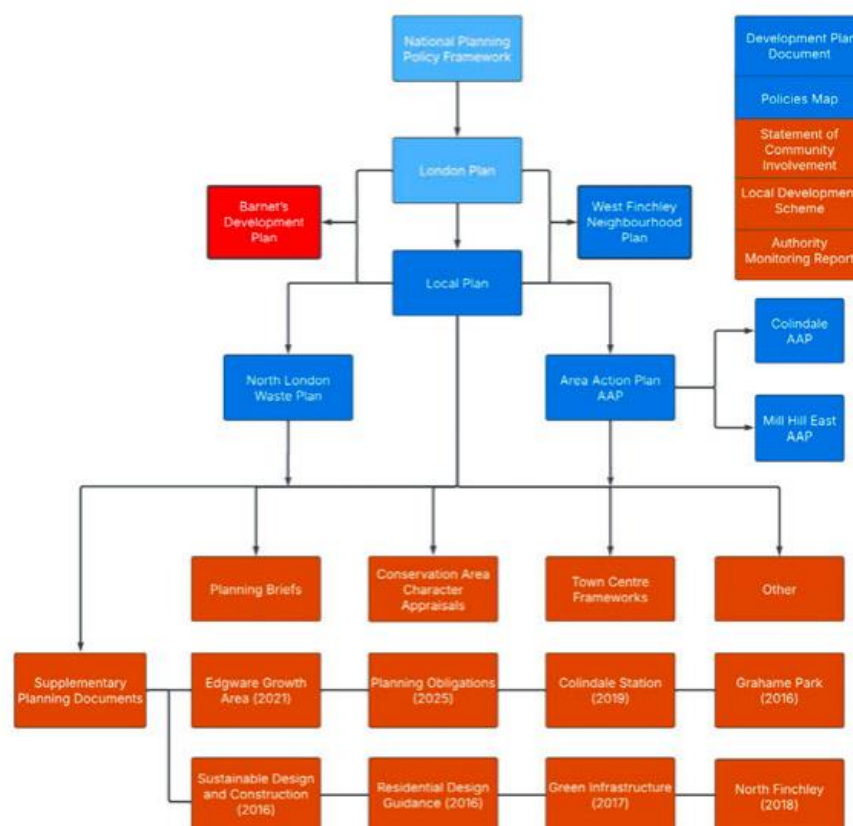
Within the Planning and Building Control department, the LPA provides ecological advice at multiple stages to ensure compliance with relevant wildlife protection legislation (S40, NERC Act), and planning policy framework including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), London Plan, and Barnet's Local Plan policies. At the pre-application stage, the LPA guide applicants on ecological constraints and opportunities, advising on surveys, mitigation, and biodiversity enhancements at the earliest stage to help guide planning proposals. At the application stage, the LPA

ecologist reviews technical documents such as Ecological Impact Assessments, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) reports and accompanying statutory metric, and HMMP, ensuring they meet statutory requirements and policy objectives.

Barnet Council’s Planning and Greenspaces ecologists are statutory consultees, they assess impacts on designated sites, priority habitats, and species, recommending planning conditions to secure mitigation, habitat creation, and long-term management. They also negotiate Section 106 obligations where off-site compensation or strategic biodiversity contributions are necessary. Post-decision, they monitor condition discharge to confirm compliance with approved ecological measures and enforce where planning and S016 breaches occur, safeguarding biodiversity commitments throughout development.

This advisory role aligns with legislation by embedding biodiversity considerations into the planning system, under Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021. By integrating ecological advice into planning decisions, Barnet Council ensures development delivers net positive outcomes for nature while maintaining legal compliance and enhancing Barnet’s green infrastructure network.

**Figure 1 - Barnet’s Planning Framework**



*Figure 11 Barnet's Planning Framework (Barnet Local Plan 2021)*

## Other Departments

Outside of the planning process, the LBB greenspaces and tree team provide support and advice to residents, environmental volunteers and colleagues on matters relating to biodiversity. This includes writing, contributing to and enacting site management plans, carrying out habitat and/or species surveys, contributing to funding bids and running training sessions.

The Sustainability Team also give regard to biodiversity have coordinated a citizen’s assembly on climate change following the declaration of the climate and biodiversity emergency in 2022.

The Scientific Services team sits within LBB Assurances and Public Service department. Their contribution toward Barnet Council’s Biodiversity Duty is largely indirect, with their core focus being statutory work on air quality, contaminated land, and noise, which aims to protect human health rather than biodiversity. Whilst these will primarily have incidental environmental benefits, they also pay due regard for ensuring emissions from vehicles and plant are adequately assessed or mitigated where development proposals are located near our SSSI.

## Partner Organisations

LBB have a service level agreement with GiGL, and the borough factsheet is shown below. This allows our contractors and community groups to access environmental information free of charge.

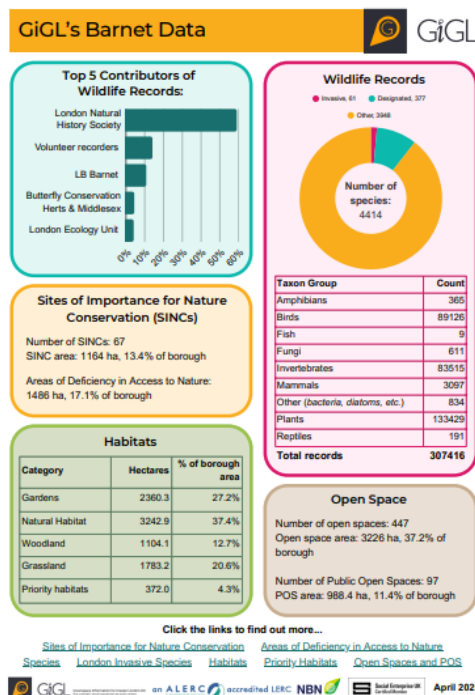


Figure 12 GiGL's borough factsheet for Barnet.

## 6. Your top achievements

### Actions you've taken to conserve and enhance biodiversity

As set out in Section 1, the list below summarises some of LBB's top achievements during the first reporting period. Before 2022, LBB did not employ an ecologist directly. As of summer 2022, there were two, one in the planning department and one in the greenspaces team. In the same year, the Council declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency, which has been reflected in updates to LBB policy and strategy. As a result, significant progress has been made in the last three years, and LBB has:

- Declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency
- Identified, funded and managed habitat creation projects e.g. woodland and tree planting
- Identified, funded and managed habitat enhancement works e.g. grasslands and addition of food growing into parks
- Identified, funded and managed habitat restoration projects e.g. North Marsh of the Welsh Harp SSSI and Dollis Brook Restoration Project
- Identified, funded and managed habitat management works e.g. working to management plans on designated sites to maintain 'positive conservation management' status.
- Updates to environmental data and subsequently strategies and policy e.g. [SINC Network and Nature Recovery Review 2025](#) and LNRS
- Community engagement e.g. Citizens Assembly on Climate Change and Biodiversity
- Provided internal training to council staff on Biodiversity in Barnet and the requirements of the Environment Act 2021 e.g. preparation and implementation of mandatory BNG.
- Contribute to devising and adopting the Barnet Local development planning and SPDs e.g. Green infrastructure SPD (due to be issued 2026), and [Planning Obligations SPD](#) which strengthen the Borough commitment to safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity.
- Identified, funded and managed the upskilling of Barnet Green Spaces Network and environmental volunteers e.g. running a series of free training sessions
- Assessed planning application and conditions in line with local, regional and national policy relevant to biodiversity and in compliance with wildlife protection legislation e.g. Habitats Directive.
- Enforced against unauthorised habitat removal, planning violations, and reporting of wildlife related crimes associated with development e.g. issuing temporary stop notices, and reporting of wildlife related crimes.

- Delivered several SuDs, flood alleviation and river restoration projects e.g. Action for the Silk Stream and Halliwick Recreation Ground FAS, in line with the updated SuDs Policy.
- Contributed annually to the Thames21 Catchment Coordinator Role for the Brent Catchment Partnership Host and the Lea Catchment Partnership Host.
- Started the 'Barnet Community Food Growing Network', recognising that food growing sites can be some of the most biodiverse habitats in urban areas.
- Working towards more sustainable management practices in parks and open spaces e.g. only using peat free compost and reducing the use of chemical pest control and weed management.

### Achievements as a result of your actions

The progress and achievements made during the first reporting period are detailed in Section 7 of this report.

### Actions you plan to take in the next reporting period

As outlined in Section 3, between 2026 and 2031 LBB are committed to:

- Complete and publish the Local Nature Recovery Plan for Barnet, in line with the [LNRS](#), [SINC review](#) and [POSS](#) publication
- Delivering the aims of the POSS relevant to biodiversity
- Implement the key recommendations of the SINC Network and Nature Recovery Review to achieve measurable improvements in biodiversity condition across identified sites by 2031.
- Continuing to contribute to the Thames21 Catchment Partnerships, delivering the aims of the Brent and London Lea action plans for healthy rivers
- Deliver the high-priority actions set out in the [Welsh Harp Vision](#), as agreed with key stakeholders and landowners, ensuring tangible improvements to biodiversity and site management.
- Produce the Biodiversity SPD in line with Local Nature Recovery Plan for Barnet and the Green Infrastructure SPD.
- Develop partnerships with other neighbouring LPAs to assist in meeting our BNG obligations.
- Investigate whether the council can be a registered habitat bank to supply offsite BNG units for London developments and formalise a partnership with other LPAs to support their BNG responsibilities, including the monitoring of offsetting site condition.

## 7. How your policies and actions have helped

As set out in the Sections above, LBB has made significant progress during the first reporting period. This includes systematic updates to baseline data, policy and strategy changes, and the consideration of biodiversity and environmental sustainability across our operations. The table below summarises these changes and provides examples of the biodiversity gain achieved as a result.

Relevant Policy/Strategy/Project and/or Action	Consideration of Biodiversity	Results
Our Plan for Barnet 2022-2026	<p>LBB has committed to caring about our planet by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put sustainability at the heart of everything we do - becoming a net zero council by 2030 and a net zero borough by 2042.</li> <li>• Improve the quality of our local environment, so that residents benefit from clean air and waterways and reduced flooding.</li> <li>• Enhance our green and open spaces so they are attractive places with excellent biodiversity and tree cover.</li> </ul>	<p>A Citizen’s Assembly, guided by the question, “What more can we do together to make Barnet more sustainable, now and in the future?”, generated 20 comprehensive recommendations designed to drive borough-wide sustainability. These included 5 recommendations specifically focused on nature and biodiversity. These have shaped our Sustainability Action Plan, which includes the following commitments:</p> <p>We are striving to become a net zero borough by 2042 and are fostering collaboration with residents, communities and partners to advance climate and biodiversity goals.</p> <p>We are prioritising equity, providing opportunities for all, and recognising unequal climate impacts.</p> <p>We're delivering together, making a positive impact for residents and our community.</p> <p>We are incorporating climate adaptation across Council services to ensure Barnet’s preparedness to future climate challenges.</p> <p>We are making realistic, responsible decisions, seeking innovative funding, and using data-driven approaches for continuous improvement.</p>
<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barnet Local Plan 2021 – 2036</li> <li>• Planning Obligations Supplementary</li> </ul>	<p>LBB has updated its planning policy, strengthening the Borough’s commitment to safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity</p>	<p>Commitment to the safeguarding and protection of biodiversity, by assessing all relevant planning applications in line with local, regional and national policy and environmental legislation, has resulted in:</p>

Relevant Policy/Strategy/Project and/or Action	Consideration of Biodiversity	Results
<p>Planning Document (SPD) 2025</p>	<p>through the planning process. For example, the SPD includes guidance on biodiversity, green roofs, air quality and trees.</p> <p>Since 2022, a full-time ecologist has been employed in the planning department.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sixty-six planning conditions for the provision of ecological enhancement features (bird nest boxes, swift nest boxes, bat roosts boxes, insect hotels, and hedgehog homes) were discharged by LB Barnet since May 2022 in line with NPPF policy 187.</li> <li>• Four Landscape and Ecological Management Plans which referenced to Glyphosate herbicide treatment were amended following objections for the LB Barnet Planning to substitute the chemical herbicide treatment with manual removal.</li> <li>• Thirty-one planning conditions for securing hedgehog highways as the base of boundary fencing of consented development has been discharged by LB Barnet Planning since May 2022. The provision of hedgehog highway helps reduce the extent of habitat fragmentation for hedgehog and other wildlife such as common toads within rear gardens.</li> <li>• 38 Tree Protection Orders have been made during this reporting period across the borough. In addition, many TPO felling applications have been refused and enforcement cases have been opened when unauthorised tree work has occurred.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Greenspaces and Trees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barnet Tree Policy 2023 – 2028</li> <li>• Barnet Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (emerging 2026)</li> </ul>	<p>LBB has updated its tree policy and has committed to plant 1000 trees a year. Our priority is street trees, which offer a range of ecosystem services such as counteracting the urban heat island effect, providing shade, mitigating flooding and improving air quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between 2022 and 2026, LBB have planted 6929 trees, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One memorial woodland - 500 trees</li> <li>○ Four Tiny Forests – 2400 trees</li> <li>○ Street trees – 3667</li> <li>○ Trees in parks- 362</li> <li>○ 5 community orchards planted</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A SINC review has been undertaken as part of the emerging Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (due to be adopted in</li> </ul>

Relevant Policy/Strategy/Project and/or Action	Consideration of Biodiversity	Results
	<p>The policy also states tree work arisings are to be left on site, creating habitat piles for invertebrates and small mammals.</p> <p>LBB Parks and Open Spaces Strategy is in the process of being updated and includes biodiversity as one of the key aims. As part of this update, a SINC and nature recovery review was undertaken.</p> <p>Since 2022, a full-time ecologist has been employed in the greenspaces team.</p>	<p>2026). This includes updates to the habitat mapping, recommendations and opportunities for SINC sites.</p>
<p><b>Highways and Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barnet Sustainable Drainage Strategy 2023</li> <li>• Barnet Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2023 – 2029</li> <li>• Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan September 2022</li> </ul>	<p>LBB Highways department (which includes the Flood Risk and drainage team) consider biodiversity, reflected in the updated strategy documents. Several large flood alleviation schemes have been completed since 2022, and these have delivered a range of ecosystem services including flood management, wetland habitat creation and river renaturalisation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivered 3 major flood alleviation /sustainable drainage schemes that have considered biodiversity in their design, in line with the updated SuDs Policy (Sustainable Drainage Strategy) and <a href="#">Local Flood Risk Management Strategy</a>, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Friary Park wetland creation</a>, and river restoration</li> <li>○ <a href="#">Action for the Silk Stream - Watling Park wetland creation</a>, <a href="#">Lyndhurst and the Meads</a> (construction starting 2026)</li> <li>○ Halliwick Recreation Ground Flood Alleviation Scheme</li> <li>○ Four urban Rain Gardens</li> </ul> </li> <li>• These schemes have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decreased flood risk to properties and infrastructure.</li> <li>○ Created/enhanced habitat within LBB owned green spaces e.g. creation of wetlands and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Relevant Policy/Strategy/Project and/or Action</b>	<b>Consideration of Biodiversity</b>	<b>Results</b>
		<p>enhancements (renaturalisation) of watercourses. Addition of wetlands also improve water quality by filtering the water, often polluted by run off.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SuDs policy includes a 2024 update to include biodiversity e.g. suitable native planting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barnet Food Plan 2022 – 2027</li> <li>• Barnet in Better Health Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025 – 2035</li> </ul>	<p>LBB has committed to considering biodiversity in the context of public health, for example by funding community food growing projects (including orchards) and promoting sustainable diets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LBB have created and funded four new community gardens within parks, engaging residents in food growing, sustainable diets and biodiversity.</li> <li>• The Barnet Food Partnership, led by the Public Health team, enables connectedness between food growers and other community groups and has led to the establishment of a food growing working group within the council</li> <li>• LBB’s Community Food Growing Network - Leadership Training Programme has been highlighted as best practice in the Good Food Local report and shared at Capital Growth network meetings – trained leaders have supported food growing projects run by food banks and GP surgeries – embedding biodiversity and food growing into neighbourhood health structures. In 2024, baseline and endline surveys were conducted to assess different health and wellbeing indicators amongst participants of the community food growing project.</li> </ul>

Relevant Policy/Strategy/Project and/or Action	Consideration of Biodiversity	Results
		<p>Pollinator surveys were also done at the sites to assess the impact on biodiversity. Outcomes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connectedness to Nature - At the end of the programme 86.4% of participants rated their sense of connection to nature as a 4 or a 5 out of 5, compared to 67.1% of participants at the beginning of the programme.</li> <li>• Time spent outdoors - At the end of the programme 40.9% of participants reported spending more than 8 hours a week outdoors, compared to 28.6 % of participants at the beginning of the programme.</li> <li>• Pollinator surveys (FIT Count) showed an increase in species abundance and frequency within the food growing plots, compared to other areas in the parks.</li> </ul>
Habitat Creation	LBB has considered biodiversity when applying for and securing funding for habitat creation projects.	<p>Just a few examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased habitat for breeding birds of a range of different species by installing over 200 bird and bat boxes in parks</li> <li>• Seeding wildflower meadows</li> <li>• Installing pollinator habitat including notice boards and solitary bee posts in suitable locations.</li> </ul>
Habitat Enhancement	LBB has considered biodiversity when applying for and securing funding for habitat enhancement projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changed the mowing regime of approximately 12 hectares of grassland, equivalent to 1% of Greenspaces managed land.</li> <li>• Supported Barnet Green Spaces Network, comprising representatives from 62 friends groups, with small scale interventions such as habitat piles, woodland and scrub management and native planting.</li> </ul>

Relevant Policy/Strategy/Project and/or Action	Consideration of Biodiversity	Results
Habitat Restoration	LBB has considered biodiversity when applying for and securing funding for habitat restoration projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part funded the <a href="#">Canal and River Trust's Wings on Water project</a> – the restoration of the North Marsh area of the Welsh Harp SSSI within LB Barnet. The project involves desilting canals and ponds, managing vegetation and new native planting.</li> <li>• Part funded the <a href="#">river restoration</a> work of approximately 2km of the Dollis Brook, working with Thames21 and the Environment Agency.</li> <li>• Fully funded a pond restoration of a 600m<sup>2</sup> pond in Hollickwood Park, including desilting, coppicing surrounding trees and the removal of INNS.</li> </ul>
Habitat Management	Across its operations, LBB has considered biodiversity by adopting more sustainable horticulture practices across sites. In addition, biodiversity and nature recovery have been included in woodland management plans and Green Flag Award submissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One woodland management plan approved by the Forestry Commission, and a further two in draft.</li> <li>• Since 2023, LBB have put forward three parks for the Green Flag Award, which requires the submission of a management plan that considers biodiversity. These sites include Cherry Tree Wood (2024), Mill Hill Park (2025) and Watling Park (2026). These sites join East Finchley Cemetery, Mill Hill Cemetery, and Long Lane Pasture (Community Award).</li> <li>• Adopting more sustainable management practices in parks and open spaces has resulted in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ only using peat free compost</li> <li>○ reducing the use of chemical pest control and weed management</li> <li>○ halving the number of cuts to amenity grassland from 16 to 8 per year</li> <li>○ favouring meadow enhancement and bird boxes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Relevant Policy/Strategy/Project and/or Action	Consideration of Biodiversity	Results
		<p>for natural predation of Oak Processionary Moth caterpillars, over chemical control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ reducing glyphosate use e.g. spraying streets twice a year only where necessary, down from 4 times a year</li> <li>● LBB control INNS (including Sch 9 species) when they are observed. We work with organisations such as the Dollis BrookERs, Pymmes BrookErs and Thames21 to remove species such as Himalayan Balsam along river corridors.</li> </ul>
Internal and external engagement and training	Since 2022, LBB has organised a series of events and training to engage residents and colleagues with biodiversity and the natural environment.	<p>Training included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Providing three BNG and Ecology and Planning training courses for 58 colleagues and 8 Councillors.</li> <li>● Providing training to council staff on Biodiversity in Barnet and the requirements of the Environment Act 2021.</li> <li>● Identifying, funding and managing the upskilling of Barnet Green Spaces Network and environmental volunteers e.g. running a series of free training sessions offered to over 200 volunteers</li> </ul>
Improving/updating environmental data	Since 2022, LBB has been updating baseline environmental data and promoting biological recording to residents.	<p>This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Updates to SINC habitat mapping and boundary data</li> <li>● Providing environmental recording training to over 100 volunteers and residents</li> <li>● Submission of data, which brings the total number of records to 307,416 (and 4414 species recorded) in Barnet.</li> </ul> <p>This has resulted in a more robust and strengthened assessment of planning applications and pre-application advice, benefiting from local knowledge</p>

<b>Relevant Policy/Strategy/Project and/or Action</b>	<b>Consideration of Biodiversity</b>	<b>Results</b>
		Results of improved awareness of GiGL, submission of data and what this data is used for (specially in a planning context) include: A large population of great crested newts, not previously known to LB Barnet or GiGL, was identified in 2022.

## 8. How you've raised awareness and educated the community

### Raising awareness of biodiversity in the community

#### Engaging Residents

Barnet's Citizen's Assembly convened 40 adults and 20 young people over sessions spanning February to May 2023, with a mission to collaboratively address the climate emergency and help Barnet in its ambitions to become a net zero borough by 2042. Guided by the question, "What more can we do together to make Barnet more sustainable, now and in the future?", participants generated 20 comprehensive recommendations designed to drive borough-wide sustainability. These included 5 recommendations specifically focused on nature and biodiversity. These have shaped our Sustainability Action Plan.

Learn more about the recommendations and watch videos about the sessions [here](#). We have also been featured as a case study in Climate Outreach's report [here](#).

As part of our climate adaptation workstream, we have hosted workshops in partnership with Bloomberg for members, professionals working in the built environment, and the general public. These used several Bloomberg maps, including climate risk, and tree canopy, to educate attendees on adapting to climate change.

Working with the University of Derby and their Social Higher Education Depot (S.H.E.D), we designed and delivered two days of resident engagement specifically on the topic of heat at Brent Cross Shopping Centre. Using S.H.E.D's innovative engagement tools, we spoke to residents how the heat affects them, how they cope, and who they think are the most vulnerable groups when it is hot.

We invited several community leaders from across Barnet, representing a wide range of different groups to join us for a curated meal with an expert facilitator to discuss how heat affects their communities and how they could work closer with the Council to provide support to vulnerable people to better prepare them for extreme heat.

All of the climate adaptation engagement listed above has placed a large focus on the importance of greening our built environment and the impacts that this can have on our resilience to climate change as well as on our biodiversity.

The council web page '[Biodiversity in Barnet | Barnet Council](#)' displays relevant information to residents on a range of topics including mowing, composting, our Local Nature Recovery Plan, and Biodiversity Net Gain. Where we have changed the management of sites, or enhanced an area for biodiversity, physical signage with a QR

code that links to this page to provide further information. About why we have made the changes, and the benefits they will have to wildlife in the borough.

We also have a relationship with [Trees for Streets](#), a scheme that allows residents or businesses to sponsor a street tree in Barnet. This is done under the supervision of the LBB tree team to ensure the most suitable species is planted at the requested location.

Our monthly BarNET ZERO newsletter goes out to around 2000 subscribers, and often includes biodiversity related content, including opportunities for volunteering days, and progress on important schemes which will have a positive impact on biodiversity, such as SuDs, as well as news about local wildlife.

## Training Community Groups

LBB ecologists have given training to individual groups when requested, for example protected species to the Barnet U3A or use of biological recording apps to friends' groups.

In FY25/26 the Green Spaces team obtained funding for the training and upskilling of Barnet Green Spaces Network (BGSN), and have organised the following sessions:

- Biological Recording 101
- Teaching Natural History
- Fungi for Beginners
- Winter Tree Identification
- Botany for Beginners
- Camera Trapping Mammals
- Terrestrial Invertebrates for Beginners
- What to do with green waste (A guide to dead hedging)
- How to manage your meadow
- 1-Day leadership training
- How to run environmental education sessions
- Risk assessment training
- Signs of Spring
- Bee Walk
- Dragonfly/Pond Survey
- Butterfly Walk
- Basic tree inspection (LANTRA certified)
- First aid at work training (Certified)
- How to conduct a risk assessment
- Safe use of hand tools
- Gardening for Wildlife.

We recognise there are gaps in environmental records and have run additional training on the use of recording platforms such as iNaturalist and iRecord, focussing on how environmental data is used and the importance of this data reaching GiGL.

Distribution of records across LB Barnet  
Produced by Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, October 2025

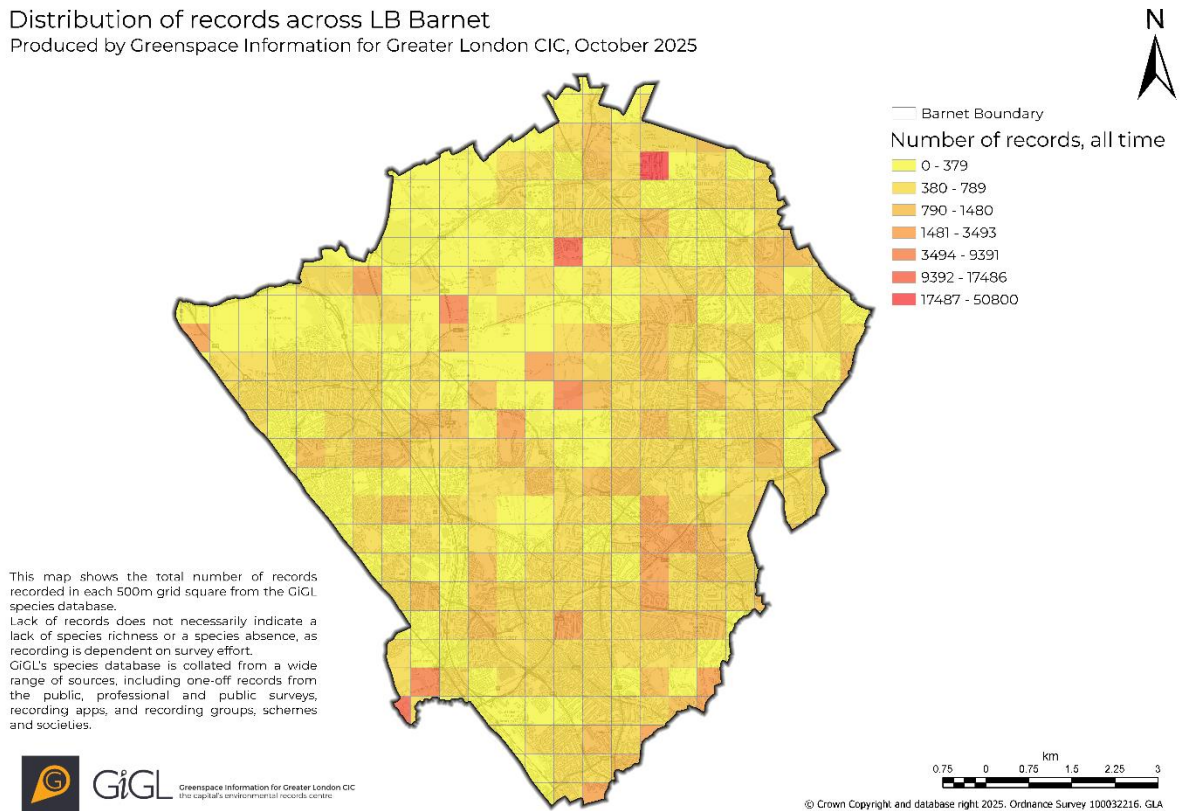


Figure 13 The distribution of environmental records across the borough

## Raising awareness of biodiversity at London Borough of Barnet

### Training and engaging colleagues

For information on how LBB staff have been engaged and trained to considered biodiversity, please refer to Section 4 - Biodiversity Net Gain – Stakeholder Engagement section.

## 9. Monitoring and Evaluating Your Actions

### Environmental Monitoring

#### Citizen science

We recognise the importance of the many citizen scientists volunteering their time to carry our environmental monitoring across the borough. In Barnet, these include:

- Water quality monitoring
  - Thames21 have offered training and distributed Hanna checkers to volunteer groups
  - Thames21 have trained volunteers in [Riverfly](#) monitoring to assess the aquatic invertebrates present in our watercourses. The results reflect the quality of the water.
  - Clean Up River Brent (CURB) and other community groups that carry out river clean ups and water quality monitoring using floating rafts.
- Air Quality monitoring
  - Clean Air Barnet and Middlesex University ran a borough-wide air quality monitoring programme, where residents can access a portable air quality monitor to assess their personal exposure to poor air quality.
- Environmental data collection
  - All SINC sites have been surveyed (UKHab) as part of the update to our Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.
  - LBB have provided training to volunteers on the use of iNaturalist, encourage all residents reporting species presence to submit data directly to GiGL
  - Funded The Biological Recording Company sessions on biological recording and its importance.
  - Friends of parks groups occasionally commission ecological reports such as bats, great crested newts, fungi, breeding birds. These reports inform the managements of these sites.
- Invertebrate monitoring
  - Butterfly transects are done regularly on Barnet owned LWT sites, and The Butterfly Conservation Trust do regular surveys in the borough, including Brown Hairstreak egg searches with residents.
  - LBB ecologist has completed pollinator monitoring (FIT count) on new community food growing sites within parks and areas where we have changed grassland management
- Soil testing
  - Working with the Orchard Project, soil testing has been completed at sites where community orchards are being planted (winter 25/26)

- Greenhouse Gas Monitoring
  - As part of reporting on our ambitions to become net zero as a council by 2030 and as a borough by 2042, we undertake annual emissions reporting. This calculates the main sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the borough and carbon emissions through the operations of the council to monitor our impact on Barnet's environment and biodiversity,

## 10. Biodiversity highlights and challenges

### Highlights

#### Working in Partnership

LBB work collaboratively with many organisations, charities, CICs and volunteers to deliver projects that support wildlife in the borough. These partners increase our capacity and provide invaluable support and include:

- Barnet Green Spaces Network
  - Barnet Environment Centre
  - Barnet Society
  - Brent Terrace Residents Association
  - Britain's Biggest Living Garden'
  - Central Square Residents Association
  - Clitterhouse Farm Group
  - Clitterhouse Brook
  - Coppetts Wood Conservationists
  - Copthall South Fields Conservation Group
  - Darlands Conservation Trust
  - Dollis Brookers
  - East Barnet Residents Association
  - Finchley Pollinator Project / Eco Show and Tell
  - Finchley Society
  - Friends of Basing Hill
  - Friends of Bethune Park
  - Friends of Cherry Tree Wood
  - Friends of Childs Hill Park
  - Friends of Finchley Way Open Space
  - Friends of Friary Park
  - Friends of Halliwick Recreation Ground
  - Friends of Henrietta Barnet Community Orchard
  - Friends of Heybourne Park
  - Friends of Highlands Gardens
  - Friends of Kara Way
  - Friends of Lyttelton Playing Fields
  - Friends of Market Place Playground
  - Friends of Mill Hill Old Railway
  - Friends of Mill Hill Park
  - Friends of Stoneyfields Park
  - Friends of Sunny Hill Park
  - Friends of the Silk Stream
  - Friends of Tudor Park and Pavilion
  - Friends of Victoria Park
  - Friends of Watling Park
  - Friends of Welsh Harp
  - Friends of Windsor Open Space
  - Friern-Barnet History Society

- Golders Green Residents Association
- Grange Big Local
- Hadley Residents Association
- Hampsted Garden Suburb Residents Association
- London Wildlife Trust (Local group)
- Mill Hill Forum
- My North Finchley
- New Barnet Community Association
- Northway Gardens Organisation
- Pymmes Brookers
- The Hope of Childs Hill
- Woodside Park Garden Suburb Residents Association
- Thames21
- Earthwatch
- The Orchard Project
- TCV
- Citizen Zoo
- The Biological Recording Company
- The Environment Agency
- EcoJudaism

LBB also support these organisations by:

- Providing **funding** for projects e.g. Dollis Brook Restoration and TCVs habitat management work at the Welsh Harp,
- Providing posters and **educational materials** e.g. protected species in Barnet poster for Barnet U3A and INNS identification guides for friends groups,
- Partnering on funding applications
- Providing **ecological advice** and inputting into site management e.g. for friends groups
- Presenting to schools about environmental jobs and the ecology sector e.g. talk to year 11 pupils from Henrietta Barnet School about environmental careers
- Organising and promoting volunteering opportunities e.g. through [Volunteering Barnet](#), [Barnet First Magazine](#) or LBB social media channels.

## Challenges

We foresee our main challenges in the next reporting period being:

- Population increase, resulting on increased pressure on existing green spaces
- Legislation and policy changes e.g. Review of Greenbelt Policy and Planning Infrastructure bill.
- BNG being delivered outside of the borough, resulting in a net loss of habitat for Barnet.

- Increased resource demand required to become a responsible body, plus the high cost of habitat creation, enhancement and monitoring. There is also a high land value in London, and uncertainty over demand and pricing of biodiversity units. Refer to Section 4 (BNG) above.
- Climate change, resulting in the need for investment in nature-based solutions and ecosystem services, for example natural flood management schemes, and to the feasibility of habitat creation works and viability of BNG monitoring project success
- Widespread environmental issues that require a national/regional solution for example misconnections into watercourses and the spread of Invasive Non-Native Species.
- Continued fiscal pressure on Local Government Authorities, spending power failing to keep pace with population growth, inflation, and rising demand for statutory services, thereby reducing resources available for nature recovery and green infrastructure initiatives.
- Economic and political instability that may shift national, regional, and local funding priorities away from nature recovery.

## 11. References

Burns, F, Mordue, S, al Fulaij, N, Boersch-Supan, PH, Boswell, J, Boyd, RJ, Bradfer-Lawrence, T, de Ornellas, P, de Palma, A, de Zylva, P, Dennis, EB, Foster, S, Gilbert, G, Halliwell, L, Hawkins, K, Haysom, KA, Holland, MM, Hughes, J, Jackson, AC, Mancini, F, Mathews, F, McQuatters-Gollop, A, Noble, DG, O'Brien, D, Pescott, OL, Purvis, A, Simkin, J, Smith, A, Stanbury, AJ, Villemot, J, Walker, KJ, Walton, P, Webb, TJ, Williams, J, Wilson, R, Gregory, RD, 2023. *State of Nature 2023*, the State of Nature partnership, Available at: [www.stateofnature.org.uk](http://www.stateofnature.org.uk)

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment. Available: [25 Year Environment Plan - GOV.UK](#)

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2018) Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. Available: [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 - GOV.UK](#)

The Greater London Authority (2018) London Environment Strategy 2018. Available: [London Environment Strategy](#)

The Greater London Authority (2021) The London Plan. Available: [The London Plan 2021](#)

London Borough of Barnet (2022) Barnet Food Plan 2022 – 2027. Available: [Barnet Food Plan 2022-2027](#)

London Borough of Barnet (2025) Barnet Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025 – 2035. Available: [Barnet Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025 - 2035](#)

London Borough of Barnet (2023) Barnet Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2023 – 2029. Available: [Barnet Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2023 - 2029](#)

London Borough of Barnet (2021, updated 2025) Barnet Local Plan 2021 – 2036. Available: [Barnet Local Plan 2021 - 2036](#)

London Borough of Barnet (2023) Barnet Sustainable Drainage Strategy. Available: [Sustainable Drainage Strategy](#)

London Borough of Barnet (2023) Barnet Tree Policy 2023 – 2028. Available: [Barnet Tree Policy 2023 - 2028](#)

London Borough of Barnet (2022) Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan September 2022. Available: [Highways Asset Management Plan](#)

London Borough of Barnet (2022) Our Plan for Barnet 2023 – 2026. Available: [Our Plan for Barnet 2023 - 2026](#)

London Borough of Barnet (2026) Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2025 – 2035.  
Available: Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2025 – 2035

London Borough of Barnet (2025) Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) March 2025. Available: [Planning Obligations Supplementary](#)

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024) National Planning Policy Framework 2024. Available: [National Planning Policy Framework December 2024](#)

# Appendix A – Guidance on Content and Structure

Below is the government guidance LBB has followed when considering the content and structure of this report, as set out [here](#):

## What to include in your report

By law, your report must include:

- a summary of the action you've taken to comply with the biodiversity duty
- how you plan to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period
- any other information you consider appropriate

Reports from local planning authorities must also include the following biodiversity net gain (BNG) information:

- the actions you've carried out to meet BNG obligations
- details of BNG resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans you've approved
- how you plan to meet BNG obligations in the next reporting period

## Optional information

To further communicate steps you're taking to improve the environment, your report could also include:

- information about your authority
- your top achievements
- how you've considered relevant local nature recovery, protected site and species conservation strategies
- how your policies and actions have helped the environment
- how you've raised awareness and educated the community
- monitoring and evaluating your actions
- biodiversity highlights and challenges

## Writing your report

You can set out your report in any way you choose, as long as you include the required information.

You could use the following structure. This is an example of how you could include the required and optional information.

### Section 1: Your policies, objectives and actions

You must include this information in your report.

In this section, explain:

- the policies and objectives you have set to meet your biodiversity duty

- the actions you've completed, either alone or in partnership with others, that benefit biodiversity

## **Section 2: Your future actions**

You must include this information in your report.

In this section, explain how your organisation plans to fulfil your biodiversity duty over the next 5 years following the end of this reporting period. You can refer back to this section in the next reporting period, as part of your monitoring and evaluation.

Alternatively, you could:

- include this required information in each section of your report, alongside the actions you've achieved
- summarise your plans for future actions separately

## **Section 3: Biodiversity net gain information (for local planning authorities only)**

You must include this information in your report if you are a local planning authority.

In this section, include the required information on BNG. You could also explain how you have:

- monitored biodiversity gains and the results of this monitoring
- used your land as a biodiversity gain site
- supported the development of a local BNG market

You could include quantitative data to add useful detail to your report. This could include data showing:

- the number of biodiversity gain plans approved
- the split between on-site and off-site gains and statutory credits
- the net gain in number of units and average percentage gain across approved biodiversity gain plans

This quantitative data will help you show how you've met the 10% net gain requirement and followed the biodiversity gain hierarchy.

If you use a software package, you may be able to generate data for your report automatically. In this case, you could include more detail on:

- the number of and net change in biodiversity units and area split by habitat type, for example, grassland
- the number of approved biodiversity gain plans that impact on irreplaceable habitat
- the location and number of approved offsite biodiversity units
- the results of monitoring activity at a habitat level

If you do not need to meet BNG requirements, you can remove this section.

## **Section 4: Information about your authority**

This information is optional.

You could explain the role and purpose of your authority. Include:

- a brief description of the authority's functions
- the size of the authority
- an outline of its governance and management structures

Summarise how your authority can affect biodiversity, both positively and negatively, in relation to:

- land and estates you manage, including any protected areas and sites
- planning and development decisions
- advice you give
- raising awareness within the community
- how your operations effect the environment

### **Section 5: Your top achievements**

This information is optional.

You could give a summary of what you, as a local authority, have achieved in the reporting period:

- actions you've taken to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- achievements as a result of your actions
- actions you plan to take in the next reporting period

### **Section 6: How you have considered other strategies**

This information is optional.

You could explain how you've taken local nature recovery, protected site and species conservation strategies into account, where they are available.

For example, include information about how:

- you've advised or worked in a local nature recovery strategy partnership in your area
- these strategies have influenced your policies, objectives or actions

### **Section 7: How your policies, objectives and actions have helped the environment**

This information is optional.

You could expand on section 1 by explaining how your policies, objectives and actions have:

- contributed to conserving, restoring or enhancing species populations or a particular habitat
- contributed to improving the condition of protected areas and sites
- benefitted biodiversity – noting the successes and challenges
- encouraged involvement in important partnerships, such as local nature recovery strategies
- started to address the main causes of biodiversity loss – for example, land use changes, invasive non-native species and wider pressures like pollution

For local authorities, you could also include any action taken within National Landscapes in your biodiversity report. Where the boundaries of National Landscapes cross multiple local authorities, you should agree how to approach reporting together.

As a local planning authority, you could include information on how complying with your BNG obligations relates to other obligations. This could include the requirements of the environmental assessment regulations.

Add data to your report to show how your policies, objectives and actions have helped.

For example, you could report hectares of raised bog restored or new woodland planted to enhance biodiversity.

Quantitative data can help you monitor and evaluate the results of your actions.

Quantitative data you could report includes:

- the condition of sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) from the latest assessment
- the percentage of on-track actions needed to restore SSSIs to favourable condition
- the result of monitoring you've carried out to fulfil the requirements of the environmental assessment regulations
- how many local sites within your local authority area have positive conservation management and information on its effectiveness
- areas of land you own or manage that include habitats of principal importance – you can find mapping data for habitats on the [Magic Map](#)

Include boundary data for areas of land you own or manage that are important for biodiversity, such as land:

- where existing conservation measures or biodiversity management plans are in place
- where you've put new conservation measures in place, or changed them, over the reporting period
- that is also a local wildlife site or local nature reserve

Describe if land you own or manage is identified in local nature recovery strategies as:

- 'areas that are of particular importance for biodiversity'
- 'areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity'
- 'areas where the recovery or enhancement of biodiversity could make a particular contribution to other environmental benefits'

Report changes you've made to management practices to increase the area's importance for biodiversity, in line with the local nature recovery strategies.

## **Section 8: How you've raised awareness and educated the community**

This information is optional.

You could describe what you've done to:

- raise awareness of biodiversity in the community
- advise on how to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- incorporate conservation and enhancement of biodiversity into education
- engage with the public and your staff on biodiversity matters

Read about how you could [educate, advise and raise public awareness to fulfil your biodiversity duty](#).

## **Section 9: Monitoring and evaluating your actions**

This information is optional.

You could explain how you've measured your actions and how you've assessed their effects on biodiversity. If you have not monitored your activities, explain why.

Where you can, report on how you monitored and evaluated:

- the way you recorded biodiversity on land you own or manage
- your contribution to meeting national and international biodiversity targets
- your biodiversity programmes or projects, done either alone or in partnership with others
- the way you implemented relevant strategies or policies
- physical conditions like soil and water quality
- any relevant environmental assessments you're responsible for, such as the strategic environmental assessment of the [local plan](#), or local transport, minerals or waste plans
- your organisation's capability or development relating to biodiversity

Report on any significant trends or areas of concern you've found. For example, if you notice:

- changes to the conservation status of habitats you manage or protect
- changes to the ecological health of land you own or manage
- adverse recordings of water or soil quality
- increases or decreases in the number and type of species present

## **Section 10: Biodiversity highlights and challenges**

This information is optional.

At the end of the report, you could explain your main achievements for biodiversity over the reporting period.

For example, include where you have:

- led or contributed to projects that support the biodiversity targets set under the Environment Act 2021 or international targets
- demonstrated leadership or expertise in relation to biodiversity
- improved habitats or ecological status

- found notable species on land you manage or own
- completed important biodiversity projects
- delivered or achieved funding grants
- run volunteer days
- provided successful education or public engagement activities

Explain what you think the main challenges will be over the next 5 years. These challenges could include:

- economic and resource pressures
- delivering cross-cutting actions
- preventing further loss of habitats and species
- effective management of invasive non-native species
- pressures for space
- the need to meet targets